

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.


PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE CITY MANAGER
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION CITY OF RENOKE	DATE SUBMITTED 3/29/23

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

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PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant:, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
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11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
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17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
	CITY MANAGER
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
CITY OF PEABODY	3/29/23

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

03/31/2023

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

54-6001569

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

M21-MP510206

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:** City of Roanoke, VA

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

54-6001569

*** c. UEI:**

NBFNAEXRHD76

d. Address:

*** Street1:** 215 Church Ave SW

Street2:

*** City:** Roanoke

County/Parish:

*** State:** VA: Virginia

Province:

*** Country:** USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:** 24011-1538

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Planning, Building & Developme

Division Name:

Community Resources

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr.

*** First Name:**

Keith

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Holland

Suffix:

Title: Community Resources Administrator

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:** 540-853-6404

Fax Number:

*** Email:** keith.holland@roanokeva.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

US Department of Housing & Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

HOME Investment Partnership Program Grant American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

M21-MP510206

* Title:

HOME Investment Partnership Program Grant American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

HOME Investment Partnership Program Grant American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

HOME-ARP projects for Program Year 2021-2029

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="2,449,336.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text"/>
* c. State	<input type="text"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="2,449,336.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. "By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an Internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:


Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

HOME-ARP CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing pursuant to 24 CFR 5.151 and 5.152.

Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan --It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements contained in the HOME-ARP Notice, including the revised one-for-one replacement requirements. It has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42, which incorporates the requirements of the HOME-ARP Notice. It will follow its residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the HOME-ARP program.

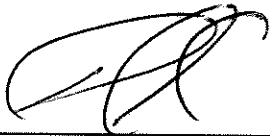
Anti-Lobbying --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and program requirements.

Section 3 --It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.

HOME-ARP Certification --It will use HOME-ARP funds consistent with Section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) and the CPD Notice: *Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program*, as may be amended by HUD, for eligible activities and costs, including the HOME-ARP Notice requirements that activities are consistent with its accepted HOME-ARP allocation plan and that HOME-ARP funds will not be used for prohibited activities or costs, as described in the HOME-ARP Notice.



Signature of Authorized Official

3/24/23

Date

City Manager

Title

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

The 20th day of March 2023.

No. 42611-032023.

A RESOLUTION approving the City of Roanoke's ("City") proposed HOME American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation Plan of additional grant funding provided to the City by the United States' Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") through the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program in the amount of \$2,449,336; authorizing certain amendments to the City's 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan; authorizing the City Manager or the City Manager's designee to execute all necessary documents and take such actions required for such amendments and to accept such funding; and further authorizing the City Manager or the City Manager's designee to submit such amendments to the United States' Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") for final review and approval.

WHEREAS, as a condition to receiving additional HOME-ARP funding, the City developed an Allocation Plan as required by HUD describing how such funds will be used;

WHEREAS, upon prior authorization of City Council, the City Manager advertised a 30-day public comment period that began January 30, 2023, and closed February 28, 2023, to receive public input for the Allocation Plan and certain amendments to the City's 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan related to the programming of HOME-ARP funds received from HUD to be used for the development of housing units and support services to serve eligible low income residents, including a public hearing held on February 21, 2023, for City Council to consider such amendments; and

WHEREAS, such amendments are required to be submitted to HUD for final review and approval, upon completion of such 30-day public comment period, pending City Council's approval.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Roanoke as follows:

1. City Council approves the City's proposed HUD Allocation Plan allocating \$2,449,336 in HOME-ARP funding provided to the City of Roanoke by HUD through the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program, as more particularly set forth in the City Council Agenda Report dated March 20, 2023, and the attachments to such report.

2. The City Manager, or his designee, is authorized to execute all necessary documents and take such actions required to amend the City's 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan to allocate \$2,449,336 in HOME-ARP funding to be used for the development of housing units and support services to serve eligible low income residents, all as more particularly set forth in the City Council Agenda Report dated March 20, 2023, and the attachments to such report.

3. The City Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary documents pertaining to such amendments, and take such actions that may be required to accept such funding, and to submit such amendments to the City of Roanoke's 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan to HUD for final review and approval.

ATTEST:

Cecilia J. McCoy
City Clerk.

CITY OF ROANOKE, VA
HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN
For Public Comment Period January 30, 2023 – February 28, 2023



January 23, 2023

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Template with Guidance

Instructions: All guidance in this template, including questions and tables, reflect requirements for the HOME-ARP allocation plan, as described in Notice CPD-21-10: *Requirements of the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program*, unless noted as optional. As the requirements highlighted in this template are not exhaustive, please refer to the Notice for a full description of the allocation plan requirements as well as instructions for submitting the plan, the SF-424, SF-424B, SF-424D, and the certifications.

References to “the ARP” mean the HOME-ARP statute at section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).

Consultation

In accordance with Section V.A of the Notice (page 13), before developing its HOME-ARP allocation plan, at a minimum, a PJ must consult with:

- CoC(s) serving the jurisdiction’s geographic area,
- homeless service providers,
- domestic violence service providers,
- veterans’ groups,
- public housing agencies (PHAs),
- public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and
- public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

State PJs are not required to consult with every PHA or CoC within the state’s boundaries; however, local PJs must consult with all PHAs (including statewide or regional PHAs) and CoCs serving the jurisdiction.

Template:

Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation:

The City of Roanoke, through the Community Resources Division, engaged in a robust consultation process. In partnership with hired consultants from The Ramsay Group (TRG), the Community Resources Division consulted the following stakeholders during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan:

- The Continuum of Care (CoC) and CoC governing board – since the announcement of the HOME-ARP award in Spring 2022, Community Resources staff provided HOME-ARP planning updates at bi-monthly CoC and monthly CoC governing board meetings. CoC meetings are held virtually; CoC governing board meetings are held in-person.

Additionally, a joint CoC and CoC governing board meeting was convened once preliminary results were gathered from the housing needs and gaps analysis, the public surveys, and service provider interviews. TRG facilitated discussion during this meeting; additional opportunities for input for HOME-ARP funding allocation were provided. This meeting was held in-person on November 15th, 2022.

- CoC Lead Staff - The CoC Lead attended biweekly planning meetings with the Community Resources staff and hired consultants (TRG). These biweekly meetings guided the process for consultation, public participation, and the housing needs and gaps analysis. Having the CoC Lead Staff attend these planning sessions brought valuable insight to the current housing and homelessness needs of the City of Roanoke. These virtual meetings occurred between August 2022 – January 2023.
- City Leadership - Online surveys were shared between October 2022 – November 2022 to City Leadership staff. Surveys were geared towards gauging leadership’s understanding of and engagement with comprehensive affordable housing planning. Summaries of the responses are below.
- Housing Developers – Online surveys were provided to local housing developers between October 2022 - November 2022. Surveys were used to identify barriers to affordable housing development as well as generate solutions for these barriers. Summaries of the responses are below.
- Key Stakeholders – TRG conducted online surveys as well as one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders in our community. Online surveys and one-on-one interviews were conducted between October 2022 – November 2022. The following agencies were contacted: homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, our local public housing agency (PHA), providers serving those at-risk of homelessness, our local legal aid agency that represents civil rights and fair housing, and providers that address the needs of persons with disabilities. Dates, method of consultation, and summaries are included below.

List the organizations consulted:

<i>Agency Consulted – Staff Consulted</i>	<i>Type of Agency</i>	<i>Method & Dates of Consultation</i>	<i>Qualifying Populations (QP) Served</i>	<i>Summary of Feedback from Interviews</i>
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center	Assists people with disabilities to live independently through advocacy; peer counseling; independent living skills training; and	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/19/22	At-risk of homelessness (as defined by 24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice (“Notice”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build more rental housing; there are insufficient units, even if there are more Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers • Estimate 7,000-7,200 more rental units needed in Roanoke

	information and referral services		Other – individuals with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals receiving disability (SSI & SSDI) are an emergency away from tragedy • People with disabilities do not have the opportunity to weigh in on topics that affect them
Bradley Free Clinic	Healthcare Service Provider for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured residents	Online Survey Interview Conducted 11/2/22	All QP's Other – persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more non-congregate shelter; should use existing structures • Repurpose existing structures into therapeutic, rehabilitative, solution-oriented resources • Need more comprehensive wraparound services • Need more financial assistance for basic needs • People experiencing homelessness have nowhere to go
Turning Point, Salvation Army	Domestic Violence Service Provider	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/31/22	Fleeing, Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough developed affordable housing • Need to rehabilitate current shelter facilities; there are not enough shelter facilities • Expand existing facilities to be able to house more and provide more services • Additional land is owned by Turning Point and can be used to expand. City bureaucracy bogs down the process of development. • Need expedited city funding to expand existing shelters. • 69% increase in DV calls on hotline
Total Action for Progress (TAP)	Community Action Agency; DV Service Provider	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/20/22	Fleeing, Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Human Trafficking	<p>Ranking of needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need more non-congregate shelters; there are not enough shelter beds that provide autonomy and client living for families and special circumstances 2. Build more rental housing 3. Provide additional supportive services

				<p>4. Provide financial assistance to help households afford rent</p> <p>5. Rehabilitate current shelters</p> <p>Additional suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiny home villages for the homeless • Improved public transportation • 24-hour shelters
Total Action for Progress (TAP)	Community Action Agency	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/17/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice (“Notice”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build more rental housing • Short-term solutions are prioritized over long-term solutions • Most people who need housing need one bedroom (most vacancies are 3-4 bedrooms)
Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/18/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice (“Notice”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More low-income housing options; building more affordable units is the only way to address the issue • Each housing unit has a waiting list of at least 75 people • Recently opened waiting list and had over 4,000 applicants; usually this the number of applicants is about 2,200 • More and more difficult to place people as they must meet fair market rent, which does not align with actual market rates; landlords are charging above the PHA’s standards • More incentive for landlords and developers to create more affordable options • Short-term (3-24 months) financial assistance in place

				<p>currently; households need longer-term assistance to maintain housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of remodeling hotels to make SRO's eliminates homelessness for some but is not permanent. They will need to transition to bigger, permanent units • People cannot find a job, take care of their families or combat/illness if they do not have a place to live of their own
Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	Online Survey Interview Conducted 11/2/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice ("Notice")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHA has not had major development in years • Housing Authority has their hands full with what they manage (public housing tenants and Section 8 HCV recipients) • Not much non-federal funds available • Never been in position to seek out new, large development opportunities due to lack of funding • Long waiting lists for all existing programs • Lack of affordable land is the biggest barrier to affordable housing development • Not many places that are zoned for multi-family development • Rezoning requires investment and public process; prevalence of NIMBY-ism (Not In My Back Yard)
Council of Community Services	Homeless service provider; CoC Planning Entity; HMIS Lead Agency	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/27/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice ("Notice")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More funding is needed • Landlords are charging exorbitant rent • Need increased housing stock of affordable housing units • Need for change in zoning laws and change building codes to attract developers to the vacant properties that exist

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration Housing does develop affordable housing, but it is a slow process, they are able to do one house per year; they take some of the historic vacant homes and restore them historically and offers low-income apartments • There are lots of historic homes that the city can be working on developing • The City can offer incentives for development to make affordable housing development more attractive
Council of Community Services	Homeless service provider; CoC Planning Entity; HMIS Lead Agency	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/19/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by HOME-ARP Notice (“Notice”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More low income housing options are needed • More and more difficult to place people as they have to meet fair market rent to receive rental assistance • Need more incentive for landlords and developers to create more affordable options • Short-term financial assistance is available (3-24 months) but longer term assistance to maintain housing is needed • Case management is also needed to sustain housing; more capacity is needed in homeless services sector for comprehensive case management • Limitations to current shelters: religious-based divide; set up to recognize gender binary, but not inclusive of LGBTQIA population • Need dedicated shelter space for LGBTQIA population • Missing data on LGBTQIA population in our homeless system
Family Promise of Greater Roanoke	Emergency Shelter	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/24/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5);	<p>Ranking of needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build more rental housing

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide additional support (mental health & substance use services) 3. Create more non-congregate shelters 4. Provide financial assistance 5. Rehab current shelters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families in program have a difficult time finding affordable rental housing. Renovating existing homes to rent and building more affordable rental housing are the biggest needs • Currently it takes 60-120 days to house families experiencing homelessness because there is a shortage of affordable rental housing • The rent in the rental market has increased significantly and income has increased just slightly • One of the keys is to work with landlords so they understand the people that are going to be renting from them (they are not going to destroy their property) • Tax incentive for landlords to provide affordable housing • Steps the City can take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revisit building code prohibiting churches as shelter space ○ Increase street outreach team ○ Look for solutions that have worked with other communities
Roanoke Rescue Mission	Emergency Shelter	Online Survey Interview Conducted 10/28/22	Homeless (24 CFR 91.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 people experiencing homelessness are living at Rescue Mission; 400 beds available

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualized plans are needed to assist persons experiencing homelessness • There has been an increase in elderly people experiencing homelessness • People who have had long-term rental housing have lost their housing due to increased rent due to buildings being sold
Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley	Civil legal services to low-income area residents, including issues involving housing, family, employment, consumer debt, and domestic violence	Online Survey Interview Conducted 11/1/22	Fair Housing & Civil Rights for all QP's Fair Housing & Civil Rights for persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income housing has been depleted due to the sale of the housing • Rental costs have skyrocketed; there are not enough safe affordable housing in Roanoke • Provide local tax credits for rehabbing existing buildings and transforming them into safe and affordable low-cost housing • The City should provide local tax credits for rehabbing existing buildings and transforming them into safe and affordable low-cost housing • There are buildings available for rehabilitation
The Least of These Ministries	Homeless Service Provider	Online Survey Interview Conducted	All QP's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more affordable housing
Salem Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center	Veterans Service Provider	Online Survey Interview Conducted	Veterans who also meet the following criteria: Homeless (24 CFR 91.5); At-risk of homelessness (24 CFR91.5); Other populations as defined by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not enough affordable housing; need more properties to be developed • Roanoke is not prepared for the aging population; income decreases, and housing is no longer affordable

			HOME-ARP Notice (“Notice”)	
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Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation:

CoC & CoC Governing Board Joint Meeting Summary

Twenty-eight (28) CoC and CoC governing board members attended a facilitated discussion on HOME-ARP and housing needs within the City. A significant number of concerns around the lack of affordable housing were expressed during this meeting. A local housing study, published in 2020, revealed a deficit of over 3500 affordable units for people who are considered extremely low income (below 30%AMI). The group consensus was that this number is actually a low estimate; the need for more units is far greater. The true impact of the global pandemic has not been fully captured; the lack of several thousand needed units complicates the work nonprofits are trying to accomplish. Attendees also expressed frustration with landlords “pricing out” renters in an effort to only house “quality renters”. Areas to focus efforts include: better coordination between private sectors, nonprofits, and the City; increasing staff capacity to provide quality case management services; improved City planning between economic development and housing; improved City planning around affordable housing; increased incentives from the City for more affordable housing development; rehabilitating/preserving current housing stock.

Service Provider Survey Summary

Sixteen (16) service providers responded to an online survey about HOME-ARP funding use and homelessness services within the City of Roanoke. When asked to rank priorities for HOME-ARP funds, providers prioritized funds as follows: (1) build more rental housing; (2) create more non-congregate shelter; (3) provide additional supportive services; (4) provide financial assistance (as tenant-based rental assistance). The comments justifying this ranking largely focused on the lack of affordable housing with frequent requests from the City to incentivize affordable housing development. Providers also expressed concerns for “right now” solutions, focusing on the need for more emergency shelter services. Providers often referenced needing assistance with capacity building within their organizations as well; providers value the need for quality, intensive supportive services but report concerns with capacity to deliver all the services needed to a vulnerable and high-needs population.

City Leadership Survey Summary

Twenty-four (24) staff from City leadership responded to an online survey about HOME-ARP funding use and affordable housing plans. Survey responses demonstrate a need to improve discussions on comprehensive housing planning and affordable housing needs. When asked if the City has adequate plans in place to develop affordable housing, 50% of respondents said “no”, while 37% responded “not sure”. Additionally, when asked if there are current affordable housing development plans, almost 90% of respondents responded “not sure”. Staff consistently mentioned the need for zoning reform; incentivizing affordable housing development; “NIMBY-ism” challenges; need for coordinated effort within the City.

Housing Developer Survey and Interview Summaries

Six (6) housing developers responded to the online survey about affordable housing development. One hundred percent (100%) of housing developers expressed interest in developing affordable housing, but also identified barriers to affordable housing development. The top two barriers identified were “lack of equity funding” and “lack of affordable land”, followed closely by “low-profit margins”. Developers also reported zoning requirements and “NIMBY-ism” as challenges as well. When asked how the City can encourage affordable housing development, answers focused on primarily on funding/incentives/subsidies. Four out of six developers reported needing technical assistance for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) or historic tax credits for affordable housing development. Additional strategies for the City include updating zoning to increase opportunities and renovating/preserving historic/existing properties.

Public Participation

In accordance with Section V.B of the Notice (page 13), PJs must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan. Before submission of the plan, PJs must provide residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan of **no less than 15 calendar days**. The PJ must follow its adopted requirements for “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment” for plan amendments in its current citizen participation plan. In addition, PJs must hold **at least one public hearing** during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan and prior to submission.

PJs are required to make the following information available to the public:

- The amount of HOME-ARP the PJ will receive, and
- The range of activities the PJ may undertake.

Throughout the HOME-ARP allocation plan public participation process, the PJ must follow its applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and procedures for effective communication, accessibility, and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and providing meaningful access to participation by limited English proficient (LEP) residents that are in its current citizen participation plan as required by 24 CFR 91.105 and 91.115.

Template:

Describe the public participation process, including information about and the dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan:

Describe the public participation process:

Public Surveying

Dates of Survey: 10/12/22 – 12/1/22

The City of Roanoke administered a public survey that focused on the causes of homelessness, the resources needed to combat homelessness, the populations most impacted by homelessness, and strategic uses of HOME-ARP. Survey responses were collected online as well as with hard copies between 10/12/22 – 12/1/22. There was significant participation and an overwhelming response to the survey. The City of Roanoke received feedback from 1,384 survey respondents. All survey responses were collected into a centralized survey database; this database was used to review and analyze responses.

Public Input Hearing During Allocation Plan Development

Date of Hearing: 11/15/22

Additionally, a public input session was held during the development of the allocation plan. City residents were invited to attend an in-person hearing, held on 11/15/22. This meeting was also broadcast on a local public channel (RVTv) and streamed on YouTube. Forty-four community members signed an attendance sheet for this event. The meeting began with an overview of HOME-ARP funding and then opened up to public comment and discussion on the housing and homelessness needs in our community. Residents provided feedback ranging from the lack of affordable housing to navigating a complex system of resources. Residents also highlighted the growing need for mental health and substance use services. Residents were encouraged to reach out to the Community Resources team to submit additional comments; comments could be submitted over the phone, through email, or in person.

Public Comment Period Prior to Submission

Date of Public Notice for Comment Period: January 26th, 2023

Dates of Comment Period: January 30th, 2023 – February 28th, 2023

Once the allocation plan was drafted, a public notice was issued January 26th, 2023 inviting public comment during the period of January 30th, 2023 – February 28th, 2023 (see Attachment A for final ad and affidavit). During this time, the public was able to call, email, write to and speak to members of the Community Resources Department about the intended plans for HOME-ARP funds. Accommodations were made in accordance with City policy; those needing language services are able to access the City of Roanoke's Language Access Program.

Public Hearing on HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Date & Time of Public Hearing on Allocation Plan: February 21st, 2023 at 7:00p.m.

Location of Public Hearing: Noel C Taylor Municipal Building
215 Church Ave SW Roanoke, VA 24011
Council Chamber, 4th Floor

The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan public hearing was held on February 21st, 2023. Comments received were taken into consideration of the Allocation Plan.

Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

The HOME ARP award was publicly discussed at City Council Meetings on June 6, 2022, and July 18, 2022, listed on the City's website.

Additionally, the City of Roanoke also used local news outlets to broaden opportunities for public participation in the survey and the public input session. Several articles were published informing the community about the HOME-ARP program. They are summarized as follows:

- WDBJ7 Published Oct 12, 2022: [City of Roanoke asks residents to complete survey on homelessness](#)
- WSLJ Published Nov 3, 2022: [In Plain Sight: 10 News Investigates the growing number of people who are unsheltered](#)
- WDBJ7 Published Nov 8, 2022: [HOME-ARP Program provides help for the homeless](#)
- WDBJ7 Published Nov 15, 2022: [Community forum discusses future of homelessness and affordable housing in Roanoke](#)

The City of Roanoke also relied on email distribution lists and social media to broaden participation for both the survey and the public input session. Email distribution ensures that information was shared among a diverse range of service providers (who can share with staff and service consumers), housing developers, residents, and businesses. These efforts include utilizing the following email distribution lists and social media outlets:

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Membership
- CoC Governing Board
- Collective Response (network to build, sustain, and support communities by responding to addiction and promoting recovery and wellness)
- Healthy Roanoke Valley (coalition of organizations and individuals that focus on social determinants of health)
- Roanoke Regional Housing Network (forum for housing developers, local government, service providers, and other stakeholders interested in addressing housing solutions)
- Neighborhood Associations
- Facebook: City of Roanoke posts for survey and public input forum
Continuum of Care posts for survey and public input forum

Hard copy surveys were conducted at locations known to be used by consumers of homeless services. These locations include:

- Rescue Mission of Roanoke – provides emergency shelter and free healthcare clinic services to those experiencing homelessness
- Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) House – a day shelter for those experiencing homelessness

- Homeless Assistance Team (HAT) – street outreach staff providing services in the community to those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Council of Community Services – provides homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services to those at-risk or currently experiencing homelessness
- Local library branches – provided options to complete the survey virtually or as a hard copy; respondents were provided incentives to complete the survey

The public input meeting on November 15th, 2022 was also broadcast on local public television (RVTN) and streamed on YouTube; the [YouTube link remains live](#) to allow ongoing views from residents; closed captioning is made available in order to improve access to the video content. Viewers were encouraged to provide additional comment to Community Resources staff via phone, email, or in person, after the meeting concluded. Accommodations were made in accordance with City policy; those needing language services are able to access the City of Roanoke's Language Access Program.

Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing:

There is an evident frustration around homelessness in the City of Roanoke. The high participation in the HOME-ARP survey demonstrates the deep concerns Roanoke residents have around housing and homelessness in their community. Nearly 90% of survey respondents stated that homelessness is a very serious issue for this community. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is growing with no real solutions in sight. Many suggested that if there were more affordable housing units perhaps the problem could be mitigated. Both the public input session as well as the survey also highlighted the growing needs for mental health and substance use services. From the resident survey, the priority use for funding is as following: (1) provide additional supportive services; (2) create more non-congregate shelter; (3) build more affordable housing; (4) provide financial assistance (in the form of tenant-based rental assistance). The priority of supportive services and non-congregate shelter seems to align with the increased visibility of homelessness; the City of Roanoke has seen a 153% increase of unsheltered homelessness from 2019-2022 (Summer Point In Time Counts). Despite the ranking, the comments from the survey overwhelmingly focused on the need for more affordable housing. For example, there were 992 responses to the questions of what the City can do to assist the homeless; the responses primarily focused on the lack of affordable housing and growing rent. "Rent freezes", rent control", and "rent caps" were frequently mentioned as solutions. Other frequent phrases included variations of "need affordable housing". Residents also mentioned existing properties that could be renovated into affordable housing as a possible solution. City residents also expressed concern around the lack of low-barrier shelter beds and day shelter, as well as focused on the need for more supportive services for those experiencing homelessness. All comments from the survey as to how the City can assist those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are provided in Attachment B. Written comments received after the public hearing are provided as Attachment C.

Summarize any comments or recommendations not accepted and state the reasons why:

All comments were accepted.

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

In accordance with Section V.C.1 of the Notice (page 14), a PJ must evaluate the size and demographic composition of **all four** of the qualifying populations within its boundaries and assess the unmet needs of each of those populations. If the PJ does not evaluate the needs of one of the qualifying populations, then the PJ has not completed their Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis. In addition, a PJ must identify any gaps within its current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system. A PJ should use current data, including point in time count, housing inventory count, or other data available through CoCs, and consultations with service providers to quantify the individuals and families in the qualifying populations and their need for additional housing, shelter, or services.

Template:

A summary of the housing needs and gaps analysis is provided below. Please see the full Analysis (Attachment D) for a comprehensive review of housing needs for the City of Roanoke. Key highlights include:

- 1 in 5 City residents live in poverty (US Census, 2020)
- There is a projected deficit of 3,569 affordable units for those living with extremely low income (below 30% AMI) (RKG Associates, 2020)
- Approximately 47% of renters are considered cost-burdened (paying over 30% of their income towards rent) (RKG Associates, 2020)
- The City of Roanoke rents are increasing faster than the national average, with an almost 15% increase in rents year-over-year (Apartment List Report, 2021)
- There is a current mismatch of housing unit size and household composition; the City of Roanoke needs to increase the production of smaller 1 & 2-bedroom units to meet need (TRG, 2023)
- The lack of affordable housing units along with the mismatch of existing units complicates the work of nonprofit providers, who continually struggle to find safe housing for clients
- At the time of reporting, the emergency shelter reported being at 50% capacity. This, along with the increased number of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, should be further examined by the City. Consultation and public participation indicates a serious need for low-barrier shelter beds

Non-Homeless			
Source: CAPER, HMIS, Census, RKG study	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	20,457		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	2,060		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	6845		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		7165	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		4640	
Current Gaps			5105

Homeless													
Source: HMIS and PIT count	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds					# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	168	114	339	0	15								
Transitional Housing	0	0	0	0	0								
Permanent Supportive Housing	9	3	126	0	95								
Other Permanent Housing	43	13	47	0	10								
Sheltered Homeless						89	1095	104	213				
Unsheltered Homeless						49	858	41	261				
Current Gap										82	-8	-1441	-1953

Describe the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within the PJ's boundaries:

The HMIS and PIT count are the source of the following information.

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The 2021-2022 data shows a total of 1,947 people accessing homeless services (HMIS reports). There were 1,095 individuals that received homeless services and 852 individuals that accessed unsheltered services. Of those that accessed emergency shelter, there were 671 men and 414 women. There were 530 men receiving unsheltered homeless services and 318 women. Among the sheltered homeless, there were 414 individuals that identified as Black/African American and 632 individuals that identified

as White. Of those accessing services as unsheltered individuals, 322 persons identified as Black/African American and 460 individuals identified as White. The majority of those experiencing homelessness identify as non-Hispanic. There are 123 sheltered families with at least one adult and one child. There were 18 unsheltered families.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The 2021-2022 HMIS data shows 840 people received services because they were determined to be at risk of homelessness, as defined by 24 CFR 91.5. Among them, there were 332 men and 508 women. Two hundred seventy-seven (277) individuals that received services because of their at-risk housing status identified as White, as compared to 546 individuals that received services and identified as Black/African American. Most at-risk clients are non-Hispanic. Additionally, the Roanoke City Public Schools identified 438 students that were “doubled up” throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

The 2021-2022 HMIS data showed that there were 515 domestic violence victims in the homeless system. Among them, 213 were sheltered, and 261 unsheltered. Among the sheltered clients, there were 146 individuals that identified as White and 58 individuals that identified as Black/African American. Among the unsheltered clients, 150 identified as White, and 74 identified as Black/African American.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in the Notice

There were 145 veterans experiencing homelessness; of these, 104 were sheltered, and 41 are unsheltered. There were 192 unsheltered individuals that identified as having a substance abuse disorder and 224 sheltered homeless individuals that identified as having a substance abuse disorder. They were 443 unsheltered homeless individuals that identified as having one or more mental health conditions, and there are 325 sheltered homeless individuals with that identified as having one or more mental health condition. All these group are a major part of the homeless population.

Identify and consider the current resources available to assist qualifying populations, including congregated and non-congregated shelter units, supportive services, TBRA, and affordable and permanent supportive rental housing (Optional):

The following are current resources available that have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing homelessness within the City:

Increased Permanent Housing Placements from Street Outreach – permanent housing placements from the community’s street outreach programs have increased yearly since 2019. The percentage of unsheltered individuals exiting street outreach programs to permanent housing destinations has risen from 13.1% in 2019 to 28% in 2021.

Increasing Street Outreach Capacity – the City of Roanoke has awarded funds for two full-time HAT case managers using CARES Act funds through the City’s Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV). These two new case managers will increase the number of case managers with the City’s Homeless Assistance Team (HAT) from three to five and

will significantly expand the capacity of the community to provide housing-focused case management services to unsheltered individuals.

New Medical and Mental Health Street Outreach through the Fralin Clinic – the Roanoke Rescue Mission has begun street outreach through its Fralin Free Clinic to bring medical care and mental health services to clients in the field. This outreach work has also built relationships between Mission staff and unsheltered individuals, resulting in additional individuals choosing to access shelter services. Fralin Clinic staff also participate in the community’s unsheltered case conferencing meeting with community partners to coordinate housing solutions for this population.

Expanding Rapid Re-Housing Services – The Council of Community Services (CCS) has received additional funding to expand their rapid re-housing services. This expansion includes hiring a new housing case manager to target rapid re-housing services for those who are currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This expansion has been a direct response to the growing number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

New Housing Resources for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence – Total Action for Progress (TAP) Domestic Violence Services (DVS) implemented a new transitional housing program for individuals fleeing domestic violence. With funding secured through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, the project has provided transitional housing services to 38 high-risk families since the program began in 2019. Thirty-six (36) of these families exited the program to permanent and non-permanent housing destinations, with only two returning to their abusers.

Homeless Preference Implemented for Voucher Programs – in 2020, the community worked with the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) to implement a “homeless preference” for the RRHA’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Mainstream Voucher programs. CoC partners can now make referrals at any time, regardless of the status of the RRHA’s public application process, to the voucher programs through our community’s Coordinated Entry System. CoC partners developed prioritization criteria for referrals that help ensure these resources are utilized by those most vulnerable and in need.

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Homeless and at risk of homelessness - There are 2805 clients that accessed services for those experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. There are only 723 beds including emergency congregate beds available. There is immediate need for assistance for 2082 persons.

Table 1

Housing Cost Burden Overview, Roanoke City, 2012-2016						
Cost Burden	Owner Households		Renter Households		Total Households	
	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total
<= 30%	16,235	73%	10,225	50%	26,460	62%
>30% to <=50%	3,490	16%	4,555	22%	8,045	19%
>50%	2,235	10%	5,030	25%	7,265	17%
Cost burden not available	190	1%	580	3%	770	2%
Total:	22,155	100%	20,385	100%	42,540	100%
Source: RKG , HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data; Note: Totals may not sum due to statistical error in CHAS data.						

Table 2

Renter Price to Affordability Comparison						
Category	Income Threshold	Renter Households	Percent	Monthly Rent	Rental Units	Surplus/Deficit
30% AMI	\$21,720	7,565	37.4%	\$543	3,996	-3,569
50% AMI	\$34,550	3,859	19.1%	\$864	7,530	3,671
80% AMI	\$55,250	3,585	17.7%	\$1,381	7,416	3,831
100% AMI	\$76,700	598	3.0%	\$1,918	860	262
120% AMI	\$82,875	2,285	11.3%	\$2,072	108	-2,177
120%+ AMI	\$82,876	2,362	11.7%	\$2,072	344	-2,018
Source: ACS 2014-2018, HUD – RKG						

Tables 1 and 2 show at 30% of AMI, there is a 3,569 unit's deficit between the available units and demand. This shows that people with 30% of AMI must pay more than 30% of their income for rent. People that make 0-30% AMI are facing a significant shortage in housing that can contribute to putting this segment of the population in danger of homelessness due to affordability.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

There are 2805 clients that received homeless or at risk of homeless services. There are only 723 beds including emergency congregate beds available. There is immediate need for assistance for 2082 persons. Forty-seven percent (47%) of renters are cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their income towards rent.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

Domestic Violence - There were 515 clients with Domestic Violence history that accessed the City's homeless response system. The 2021-2022 HMIS data showed that there were 515 domestic violence victims in the homeless system. Among them, 213 were sheltered, and 261 unsheltered. There is a lack of housing and shelter resources for those experiencing domestic violence, which is also reflected throughout the state of Virginia. According to the National Network to End Violence's 2021 Domestic Violence Counts Report, 78% of unmet requests for services in DV shelters across the state were for housing and emergency shelter. These requests for services were unmet because programs lacked resources to meet these needs. There is significant deficit in housing and services for domestic violence victims in the system. The City needs housing and other services for over 500 Domestic violence victims in the City.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

Other Populations - There are 443 unsheltered homeless with some Mental Health disorders, and sheltered homeless with some mental health disorder. There are unsheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder and 224 sheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder. These groups are major part of the homeless population. There are no organized services for these population and there is only one clinic with outreach to these populations. The City needs housing and organized mental health services for over 800 clients. The City also needs over 400 accommodation and related services for people with substance abuse disorder.

Identify any gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system:

The HMIS data shows an immediate need for two thousand (2,000) housing units for rapid rehousing of the homeless population. The research, including interviews with providers, suggests that people should receive two years of service or, in some cases, longer to reduce the rate of return to homelessness. Both rapid rehousing and support services reduce the rate of return to homelessness.

This study and previous studies all show that the city should assist with producing approximately 5,000 small (0-2 bedrooms) affordable rental housing units to people with 0-50% of Area Medium Income (AMI) to eliminate homelessness and risk of homelessness.

The increase in unsheltered homelessness needs along with emergency shelter bed vacancies needs to be examined further. It is recommended the City look into best practices around low-barrier shelter and work towards finding adequate shelter solutions for this community.

Under Section IV.4.2.ii.G of the HOME-ARP Notice, a PJ may provide additional characteristics associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness in their HOME-ARP allocation plan. These characteristics will further refine the definition of “other populations” that are “At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability,” as established in the HOME-ARP Notice. If including these characteristics, identify them here:

Not Applicable

Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

Consultation and public input clearly identified the top priority for all qualifying populations is the production or preservation of affordable housing. Support service provision and non-congregate shelter were also highly rated among service providers, the general public, and City leadership. In order to maximize the impact of HOME-ARP, the City of Roanoke has agreed to use HOME-ARP funding for the production/preservation of affordable housing. Through the development of affordable rental housing, the City can provide long-term solutions and address the widening gaps of affordable housing in a community of higher than average poverty rates.

Explain how the PJ determined the level of need and gaps in the PJ’s shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems based on the data presented in the plan:

The City of Roanoke used the research and reports listed below to create a foundation for future implementation of the HOME-ARP program:

- RKG Associate Inc. Regional Housing Study, 2020
- PIT/CoC/HMIS Homeless Statistics, 2020-2022
- Community Engagement Report and Statistics - Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness (BRICH), 2022
- City of Roanoke’s Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing – Resource Consultants, 2022
- Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) Report - Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research (VCHR), 2021
- Virginia Housing Alliance Public Opinion Poll Survey
- The Ramsay Group (TRG) research, surveys and consultations with service providers, city staff, housing developers and the public in 2022 to receive input, suggestions and comments on the needs of qualifying populations.

HOME-ARP Activities

Template:

Describe the method(s) that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors:

The City of Roanoke will publicly post a notice of funding opportunity through print and social media. The City will also coordinate this notice with other local housing initiatives and nonprofit partnerships, such as our local Continuum of Care and the Roanoke Regional Housing Network. The Community Resources office will host a How to Apply Workshop, which will provide an opportunity for interested applicants to learn about the HOME-ARP funds and ask questions related to funding and the application process. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Citizen Review Team as well as Community Resources staff. Applicants will be ranked based on scoring from Community Resources' Community Development Rating Sheet as well as Pre-Award Risk Assessment forms. Recommendations for awards will be submitted to City Council for approval.

Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

The PJ will use the application solicitation process outlined above in order to select developers, subrecipients, and/or contractors to implement the development of rental housing as well as implement the provision of supportive services.

If any portion of the PJ's HOME-ARP administrative funds are provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of the PJ's entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all of the PJ's HOME-ARP program:

No HOME-ARP administrative funds were provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan.

In accordance with Section V.C.2. of the Notice (page 4), PJs must indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits.

Template:

Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 489,867		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 1,347,135		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 122,467	5 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 122,467	5 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 367,400	15 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 2,449,336		

Describe how the PJ will distribute HOME-ARP funds in accordance with its priority needs identified in its needs assessment and gap analysis:

The City of Roanoke believes that by focusing on the development of affordable rental housing and expanding the provision of supportive services it will be able address the priority needs identified in the needs assessment and gaps analysis. Survey responses among service providers and City leadership identified the top priority as affordable housing, while survey responses from City residents identified supportive services as the top priority for HOME-ARP funds.

The City currently works with several non-profits that perform new construction and major rehabilitation activities. As outlined in the Developer surveys, as well as expressed by service providers and residents, there is a genuine need for funding to assist developers with affordable housing development. By setting aside 5% of Non-Profit Operating and Non-Profit Capacity Building, the City intends to meet these expressed needs. The City will maximize the use of Non-Profit Capacity Building by developing new models for low-impact affordable housing development. The low-impact affordable housing models implemented through this process will result in housing that is dispersed, dignified, and designed to meet the needs its tenants.

Through the consultation and public participation process, the City has recognized a serious need for the development of affordable housing units, especially for those living at or below 30% of AMI. The City of Roanoke plans to leverage \$4.25 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to fill gaps not covered by HOME-ARP. ARPA funds will ensure affordable housing projects are viable and ease the concerns of low profit margins identified by developers. ARPA funds will also address the need to provide supportive services to qualifying populations residing in HOME-ARP assisted units. The City of Roanoke has allocated approximately \$5 million for the production of affordable housing units and approximately \$1 million for supportive services. By braiding together ARPA and HOME-ARP funds, the City believes it is able to take a comprehensive and strategic approach to affordable housing development and supportive service provision.

Additionally, the consultation and public participation process highlighted the need for low-barrier non-congregate shelter. The development of low-barrier non-congregate shelter (NCS) would require extensive planning, non-profit capacity building, and flexible funding as the City of Roanoke lacks current resources that could be easily expanded into a viable NCS project. In order to address this need identified in the gaps analysis, the City of Roanoke intends to strategize a path forward for NCS development.

Describe how the characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis provided a rationale for the plan to fund eligible activities:

HOME-ARP qualifying populations require a wide range of services and supports to remain housed. The highest priority needs which were consistently identified through consultations and reinforced with data is the lack of units available to the extremely low-income population.

Consultation, public participation, and housing inventory data demonstrate a critical need for affordable housing development. The City of Roanoke, as a conservative estimate, is missing approximately 3500 affordable housing units for households living at or below 30% AMI. The lack of affordable housing units, along with the high poverty rate (20% of residents living in poverty), drastic rent increases (14% year over year) has shown community wide impacts of increased housing instability and increased rates of unsheltered homelessness.

The City of Roanoke acknowledges housing as a solution to homelessness, and is responding to the overwhelming input of residents, service providers, and City leadership by developing more affordable housing units:

- \$1,347,135 in HOME-ARP funds will go towards affordable housing development; 100% of units will serve qualifying populations;
- \$3,739,867 in ARPA funds will be leveraged with HOME-ARP funds;
- A total production goal between HOME-ARP and ARPA funds is 50 new affordable housing units as well as an affordable housing development model that provides low-impact housing for our community.

Additionally, consultation and public input also revealed a need for providing supportive services as well. The City of Roanoke has several strategies for addressing the need for supportive services in our community:

- Allocating \$489,867 in HOME-ARP funds towards supportive services;
- Allocating \$510,133 in ARPA funds for supportive services;
- Dedicating a percentage of units to HUD-VASH and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program participants, which guarantees supportive service provision;
- Coordinating with Medicaid supportive services to ensure individuals who wish to engage in supportive services have access to these services.

HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

Template

Estimate the number of affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations that the PJ will produce or support with its HOME-ARP allocation:

The City of Roanoke estimates it will produce 13 affordable housing units for Qualifying Populations with HOME-ARP funds..

Describe the specific affordable rental housing production goal that the PJ hopes to achieve and describe how the production goal will address the PJ's priority needs:

The City of Roanoke anticipates producing 13 affordable housing units total, of which 100% will be dedicated to qualifying populations. The units will be a mix of one and two bedroom units, which will meet the identified inventory gap in our community. HOME-ARP funds will be

leveraged with ARPA funding to increase affordable housing production goals Total housing production will be 50 units, a mix of one and two bedroom units.

Preferences

A preference provides a priority for the selection of applicants who fall into a specific QP or category (e.g., elderly or persons with disabilities) within a QP (i.e., subpopulation) to receive assistance. A *preference* permits an eligible applicant that qualifies for a PJ-adopted preference to be selected for HOME-ARP assistance before another eligible applicant that does not qualify for a preference. A *method of prioritization* is the process by which a PJ determines how two or more eligible applicants qualifying for the same or different preferences are selected for HOME-ARP assistance. For example, in a project with a preference for chronically homeless, all eligible QP applicants are selected in chronological order for a HOME-ARP rental project except that eligible QP applicants that qualify for the preference of chronically homeless are selected for occupancy based on length of time they have been homeless before eligible QP applicants who do not qualify for the preference of chronically homeless.

Please note that HUD has also described a method of prioritization in other HUD guidance. Section I.C.4 of Notice CPD-17-01 describes Prioritization in CoC CE as follows:

“Prioritization. In the context of the coordinated entry process, HUD uses the term “Prioritization” to refer to the coordinated entry-specific process by which all persons in need of assistance who use coordinated entry are ranked in order of priority. The coordinated entry prioritization policies are established by the CoC with input from all community stakeholders and must ensure that ESG projects are able to serve clients in accordance with written standards that are established under 24 CFR 576.400(e). In addition, the coordinated entry process must, to the maximum extent feasible, ensure that people with more severe service needs and levels of vulnerability are prioritized for housing and homeless assistance before those with less severe service needs and lower levels of vulnerability. Regardless of how prioritization decisions are implemented, the prioritization process must follow the requirements in Section II.B.3. and Section I.D. of this Notice.”

If a PJ is using a CE that has a method of prioritization described in CPD-17-01, then a PJ has preferences and a method of prioritizing those preferences. These must be described in the HOME-ARP allocation plan in order to comply with the requirements of Section IV.C.2 (page 10) of the HOME-ARP Notice.

In accordance with Section V.C.4 of the Notice (page 15), the HOME-ARP allocation plan must identify whether the PJ intends to give a preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

- Preferences cannot violate any applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a).
- The PJ must comply with all applicable nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws and requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a) and any other applicable fair housing and civil rights laws and requirements when establishing preferences or methods of prioritization.

While PJs are not required to describe specific projects in its HOME-ARP allocation plan to which the preferences will apply, the PJ must describe the planned use of any preferences in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. This requirement also applies if the PJ intends to commit HOME-ARP funds to projects that will utilize preferences or limitations to comply with restrictive eligibility requirements of another project funding source. **If a PJ fails to describe preferences or limitations in its plan, it cannot commit HOME-ARP funds to a project that will implement a preference or limitation until the PJ amends its HOME-ARP allocation plan.** For HOME-ARP rental housing projects, Section VI.B.20.a.iii of the HOME-ARP Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility or give a preference to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population if the limitation or preference is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan. Adding a preference or limitation not previously described in the plan requires a substantial amendment and a public comment period in accordance with Section V.C.6 of the Notice (page 16).

Template:

Identify whether the PJ intends to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project:

The City of Roanoke intends to provide preference to the following qualifying populations:

1. Those experiencing homelessness, as defined by 24 CFR 91.5; (1), (2), (3)
2. Those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking, as defined in the Notice
3. Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet the criteria for one of preference groups identified above

-If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:

The City will continue to target current homelessness prevention services to those who may be at-risk of homelessness or unstably housed, while providing preference to those who are currently homeless and/or fleeing domestic violence with the HOME-ARP assisted affordable housing developments. Research shows the longer a person is homeless, the harder and more expensive it becomes to rehouse this person. The City hopes to address the rise in unsheltered homelessness over the last three years (153% increase), along with the increase in those fleeing domestic violence with these units.

Referral Methods

PJs are not required to describe referral methods in the plan. However, if a PJ intends to use a coordinated entry (CE) process for referrals to a HOME-ARP project or activity, the PJ must ensure compliance with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

A PJ may use only the CE for direct referrals to HOME-ARP projects and activities (as opposed to CE and other referral agencies or a waitlist) if the CE expands to accept all HOME-ARP qualifying populations and implements the preferences and prioritization established by the PJ in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. A direct referral is where the CE provides the eligible applicant directly to the PJ, subrecipient, or owner to receive HOME-ARP TBRA, supportive services, admittance to a HOME-ARP rental unit, or occupancy of a NCS unit. In comparison, an indirect referral is where a CE (or other referral source) refers an eligible applicant for placement to a project or activity waitlist. Eligible applicants are then selected for a HOME-ARP project or activity from the waitlist.

The PJ must require a project or activity to use CE along with other referral methods (as provided in Section IV.C.2.ii) or to use only a project/activity waiting list (as provided in Section IV.C.2.iii) if:

1. the CE does not have a sufficient number of qualifying individuals and families to refer to the PJ for the project or activity;
2. the CE does not include all HOME-ARP qualifying populations; or,
3. the CE fails to provide access and implement uniform referral processes in situations where a project's geographic area(s) is broader than the geographic area(s) covered by the CE

If a PJ uses a CE that prioritizes one or more qualifying populations or segments of qualifying populations (e.g., prioritizing assistance or units for chronically homeless individuals first, then prioritizing homeless youth second, followed by any other individuals qualifying as homeless, etc.) then this constitutes the use of preferences and a method of prioritization. To implement a CE with these preferences and priorities, the PJ **must** include the preferences and method of prioritization that the CE will use in the preferences section of their HOME-ARP allocation plan. Use of a CE with embedded preferences or methods of prioritization that are not contained in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation does not comply with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

Template:

Identify the referral methods that the PJ intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. PJ's may use multiple referral methods in its HOME-ARP program. (Optional):

Enter narrative response here.

If the PJ intends to use the coordinated entry (CE) process established by the CoC, describe whether all qualifying populations eligible for a project or activity will be included in the CE

process, or the method by which all qualifying populations eligible for the project or activity will be covered. (Optional):

Enter narrative response here.

If the PJ intends to use the CE process established by the CoC, describe the method of prioritization to be used by the CE. (Optional):

If the PJ intends to use both a CE process established by the CoC and another referral method for a project or activity, describe any method of prioritization between the two referral methods, if any. (Optional):

Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project

Limiting eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project is only permitted under certain circumstances.

- PJs must follow all applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a). This includes, but is not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, section 504 of Rehabilitation Act, HUD's Equal Access Rule, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable.
- A PJ may not exclude otherwise eligible qualifying populations from its overall HOME-ARP program.
- Within the qualifying populations, participation in a project or activity may be limited to persons with a specific disability only, if necessary, to provide effective housing, aid, benefit, or services that would be as effective as those provided to others in accordance with 24 CFR 8.4(b)(1)(iv). A PJ must describe why such a limitation for a project or activity is necessary in its HOME-ARP allocation plan (based on the needs and gap identified by the PJ in its plan) to meet some greater need and to provide a specific benefit that cannot be provided through the provision of a preference.
- For HOME-ARP rental housing, section VI.B.20.a.iii of the Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population if the limitation is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan.
- PJs may limit admission to HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS to households who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in such housing or NCS. However, no otherwise eligible individuals with disabilities or families including an individual with a disability who may benefit from the services provided may be excluded on the grounds that they do not have a particular disability.

Template

Describe whether the PJ intends to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population identified in section IV.A of the Notice:

Not Applicable

If a PJ intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:

Not Applicable

If a limitation was identified, describe how the PJ will address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the limitation through the use of HOME-ARP funds (i.e., through another of the PJ's HOME-ARP projects or activities):

Not Applicable

HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

If the PJ intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, the PJ must state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines in accordance with [24 CFR 92.206\(b\)](#). The guidelines must describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt for a HOME-ARP rental project, including:

- ***Establish a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing to demonstrate that rehabilitation of HOME-ARP rental housing is the primary eligible activity***

Not Applicable

- ***Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestment in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving qualified populations for the minimum compliance period can be demonstrated.***

Not Applicable

- ***State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.***

Not Applicable

- ***Specify the required compliance period, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.***

Not Applicable

- ***State that HOME-ARP funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.***

Not Applicable

- ***Other requirements in the PJ's guidelines, if applicable:***

Not Applicable

Real estate values jump in Roanoke County

SAM WALL
sam.wall@roanoke.com
540-981-2356

Residential Roanoke County real estate values rose by an average of about 12% after reassessment, according to county data. Real estate in Roanoke County has been assessed at just over \$11 billion for 2023, according to county officials, a more than \$1 billion increase from 2022.

The county assesses the residential and commercial real estate values of properties in its jurisdiction on an annual basis.

The rise in residential real estate values made up the vast majority of the growth, with market value accounting for nearly 91% of the increase from approximately \$8.7 billion to \$9.7 billion, according to county figures.

Commercial real estate saw a much smaller increase in its value

from approximately \$1.25 billion to around \$1.29 billion, a difference of just over \$43 million—a 3.5% jump.

Market value accounted for roughly \$27 million of that increase, with the rest coming from new development.

Comparatively, 2022 saw an overall hike of 7%, with no other year crossing the 4% threshold since 2013, according to county documents.

The current tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value has remained the same for years, but the housing market has seen rapid growth over the last few years, which means increased taxes.

For context, the median household in the county is \$299,000, up from \$258,000 this time last year, according to county officials. That would equate to average

tax bills going from \$2,812 to \$3,259 in 2023.

Real estate taxes make up 50% of the county's revenue, which is approximately \$110 million for the current 2023 fiscal year.

Deputy County Administrator Rebecca Owens said the county would receive another \$11.5 million in revenue this calendar year based on the newly assessed values calculated in November.

Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Martha Hooker said she and other supervisors have already heard from constituents expressing concern over the increases in value.

Hooker said at Tuesday's meeting the county has not made any decisions on whether or not there will be any tax relief this year, but "everything is still being considered," including lowering the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year.

She said there are a lot of factors to consider before the board advertises its proposed maximum tax rate, scheduled for its March 14 meeting.

The rate that is advertised after that meeting can be lowered, but it cannot be increased, per state law.

When personal property taxes were historically high last year, the board of supervisors did provide relief for residents.

The county chose to increase the personal property tax relief percentage mandated by the state from 47.45% to 83.3% on the first \$20,000 in assessed value for qualifying vehicles in an effort to quell the large hike in assessed value of used vehicles.

It received approximately \$12.2 million from the state for its offset percentage, but the county decided to double the amount, as

used car values had risen 30% to 40% from the previous year, Owens previously stated.

The relief was seen on the personal property bills that were due at the end of May, and while some residents did still notice an increase from their 2021 bill, it was less than if the county had done nothing.

County citizens will pay a total of approximately \$36.5 million in personal property taxes this year, roughly \$5 million more than last year, but without the additional cuts, this year's number would've been nearly \$49 million, Owens said previously.

A public hearing is set on the tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year at the March 14 meeting before supervisors would vote on the advertised rate.

The real estate tax rate is scheduled to be adopted April 11.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING RELATED TO PROPOSED HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN AND AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF ROANOKE 2020-2024 5-YEAR HUD CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Effective Monday, January 30, 2023, the City of Roanoke, Virginia is seeking public comments related to a proposed amendment to its 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan) for use of funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HOME-ARP grant program. The proposed amendment provides for the use of HOME-ARP funds in the approximate amount of \$2,449,336 to address the development of housing units and related support services to serve eligible low income residents and qualified populations identified in an Allocation Plan, which must be submitted to HUD for approval prior to executing a funding agreement with the City to access HOME-ARP funds. This will amend the 2020-2024 5-Year Consolidated Plan to allow for programming of American Rescue Plan Act funds associated with the HOME Investment Partnership Grant program that were not available when the Consolidated Plan was initially developed.

Comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Tuesday, February, 28, 2023. Comments can be made by citizens and other interested stakeholders by phone, email, mail or in person. Interested parties are not required to give identifying information when submitting comments. Comments can be directed to Keith Holland, HUD Community Resources Administrator at 215 Church Ave SW, Room 305 North, Roanoke VA 24011, (540) 853-6404, or keith.holland@roanokeva.gov. More detailed information on the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is available for review at the following locations: (1) the Office of the City Clerk, at Room 456 South, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA; Belmont Branch Roanoke City Library, 1101 Morningside Street SE, Roanoke, VA; and (2) the office of HUD Community Resources, Room 305 North, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA, and are posted to the City of Roanoke's webpage at www.roanokeva.gov. For additional details, call the City's HUD Community Resources Division at (540) 853-6404.

Notice is also given that the Roanoke City Council will hold a public hearing on the above matter at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chamber, 4th Floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA. All persons shall be afforded an opportunity to speak and state their views concerning all aspects of the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and related amendment to the Consolidated Plan. The comments received from the public during the 30-day public comment period and at the Tuesday, February 21, 2023 public hearing will be used by the City in further developing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and subsequent amendment to the Consolidated Plan to be submitted to HUD for review and approval prior to March 31, 2023.

Citizens wishing to address City Council must sign-up with the City Clerk's Office by emailing clerk@roanokeva.gov or by calling (540) 853-2541 by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2023. If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodations for this hearing, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (540) 853-2541, before 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

The City of Roanoke provides interpretation at no cost for all public meetings, upon request. If you would like to request an interpreter, please let us know at least 24 hours in advance by calling (540) 853-1283.

La Ciudad de Roanoke proporciona interpretación sin costo por todas citas públicas, previa solicitud. Si usted desea solicitar un intérprete, háganoslo saber con al menos 24 horas de antelación por llamar (540) 853-1283.

Jiji la Roanoke linatoka huduma ya ukalimani bila malipo katika mikutano yote ya umma, inapombwa. Iwapo ungependa kuomba mkalimani, tafadhali tujulishe angalau saa 24 kabla kwa kupiga simu (540) 853-1283.

شهر راونوك در صورت درخواست برای همه جلسات عمومی بدون اخذ هزینه تفسیر را فراهم می‌گردد. اگر مایل به درخواست تفسیر هستید، لطفاً حداقل 24 ساعت قبل از طریق تلفنی یا شماره یا تابلوی (540) 853-1283 با ما در جریان بگذارید.

Given under my hand this 26th day of January, 2023.

Cecelia McCoy
City Clerk

Expanded lawsuit claims Virginia worked to deny disabled kids' rights

ANNA BRYSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against the Virginia Department of Education broadened the scope of their case to allege active involvement of the state education department in denying students with disabilities access to educational services that are guaranteed to them under federal law.

The class-action suit filed in Fairfax County in September challenges the state over the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, asserting that in recent decades hearing officers rarely sided with parents who challenge school plans for how to educate their children. The IDEA, passed in 1975, ensures that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education.

Parents, teachers and

hearing officers across the state who heard about the case reached out to the plaintiffs following the initial filing to share their stories.

"It was much worse than any of us had expected," said lead plaintiff Trevor Chaplick, a Fairfax County resident. "We were originally focused on a due-process hearing system that was defective, which was bad enough. But what we've been learning is that the entire system, from end to end, from start to finish, is systematically defective, and in violation of (federal disability law)."

The case has expanded to include allegations the state education department was not only aware that local school divisions denied appropriate services to students with disabilities, but that the VDOE was also actively complicit in making

sure the students did not receive the services they are entitled to under federal disability law.

VDOE spokeswoman Charles Pyle said the agency does not comment on active litigation.

Attorney General Jason Miyares' spokeswoman Victoria LaCivita also said she cannot comment on pending litigation, and did not answer questions from the Richmond Times-Dispatch on Tuesday.

The amended lawsuit alleges that school divisions and the state education department encouraged the falsification of students' grades, illegally withheld information from parents, failed to properly investigate denials of appropriate education services to students and failed to create and update Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in accordance with federal law.

Former Fox News anchors support Democrat's workplace protection bill

CHARLOTTE RENE WOODS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Former Fox News anchors Gretchen Carlson and Julie Roginsky support a workplace protection bill filed by Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, D-Fairfax.

House Bill 1895 would prohibit non-disclosure and non-disparagement provisions in employment contracts or settlement agreements that would bar discussion of conduct at a past workplace, at work events, and between employees and employers.

This week, Carlson tweeted about it to her 114,000 followers and Roginsky called into a subcommittee meeting where the bill was heard Tuesday to offer her support.

At a news conference Tuesday morning, Filler-Corn called her bill a "pro-business, law-and-order bill aimed at further improving NDAs."

"You might ask me how," she added, "by cracking down on illicit behavior and preventing bad actors from

getting away with these illegal acts of discrimination, retaliation, assault, harassment, workplace violations, waste and abuse."

It's something Roginsky has had multiple experiences with. She and Carlson have had high-profile lawsuits against their former employer, Roger Aisles, at Fox News asserting sexual harassment — which was depicted in the 2019 movie, "Bombshell." Both cases have been settled.

"Sadly, [with] my NDA, cannot tell you how accurate that movie is," Roginsky said in an interview.

Following her job at Fox she worked for New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy where she said women staff complained to her about a toxic workplace environment. She said that when she told Murphy she was fired, and that an NDA she had signed at the beginning of her contract prevented her from speaking out for years.

"It was one of the darkest days of my life, professionally," she recalled in a phone

call. Roginsky and Carlson, through their organization Lift Our Voices, have since connected with states in which lawmakers have worked to pass bills like Filler-Corn's.

Filler-Corn's bill would enable employees to point out harassment, sexual assault, fraud or other conduct "that is recognized as against a clear mandate of public policy."

Carlson and Roginsky

also wrote a column in The Times-Dispatch this week. They believe that while there is a place for confidentiality provisions like nondisclosure agreements, there is "never a good reason for organizations to cover up workplace abuse."

The bill was reviewed by a House subcommittee Tuesday evening, which reported the measure to the Commerce and Labor Committee for consideration. Legislation filters through subcommittees and committees before the full House and Senate vote on surviving measures.

Youngkin administration

takes procurement reform in-house. It's unclear yet what bipartisan support the bill could garner in the House and Senate chambers, according to spokespeople for the Senate Democratic Caucus and the House Republican Caucus.

Roginsky said she feels confident it could clear both chambers — noting the bipartisan support for Congress' similar Speak Out Act. "This is not an issue that falls along partisan lines and there's no reason that members on both sides of the aisle and the governor of the commonwealth can't join together," she said.

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visit <https://ads.roanoke.com/roanokeadportal/obits/index.html> or email to obituaries@roanoke.com.

Obituaries can be published daily in the Roanoke Times. We edit obituaries to conform to newspaper style. Our obituary office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our deadline is 2 p.m. for the next publication date. Our offices are closed on Sundays. To reach us by phone, call 434-978-7294.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING RELATED TO
PROPOSED HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN AND AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF ROANOKE
2020-2024 5-YEAR HUD CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

Effective Monday, January 30, 2023, the City of Roanoke, Virginia is seeking public comments related to a proposed amendment to its 2020-2024 5-Year HUD Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan) for use of funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HOME-ARP grant program. The proposed amendment provides for the use of HOME-ARP funds in the approximate amount of \$2,449,336 to address the development of housing units and related support services to serve eligible low income residents and qualified populations identified in an Allocation Plan, which must be submitted to HUD for approval prior to executing a funding agreement with the City to access HOME-ARP funds. This will amend the 2020-2024 5-Year Consolidated Plan to allow for programming of American Rescue Plan Act funds associated with the HOME Investment Partnership Grant program that were not available when the Consolidated Plan was initially developed.

Comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Tuesday, February, 28, 2023. Comments can be made by citizens and other interested stakeholders by phone, email, mail or in person. Interested parties are not required to give identifying information when submitting comments. Comments can be directed to Keith Holland, HUD Community Resources Administrator at 215 Church Ave SW, Room 305 North, Roanoke VA 24011, (540) 853-6404, or keith.holland@roanokeva.gov. More detailed information on the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is available for review at the following locations: (1) the Office of the City Clerk, at Room 456 South, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA; Belmont Branch Roanoke City Library, 1101 Morningside Street SE, Roanoke, VA; and (2) the office of HUD Community Resources, Room 305 North, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA, and are posted to the City of Roanoke's webpage at www.roanokeva.gov. For additional details, call the City's HUD Community Resources Division at (540) 853-6404.

Notice is also given that the Roanoke City Council will hold a public hearing on the above matter at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chamber, 4th Floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA. All persons shall be afforded an opportunity to speak and state their views concerning all aspects of the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and related amendment to the Consolidated Plan. The comments received from the public during the 30-day public comment period and at the Tuesday, February 21, 2023 public hearing will be used by the City in further developing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and subsequent amendment to the Consolidated Plan to be submitted to HUD for review and approval prior to March 31, 2023.

Citizens wishing to address City Council must sign-up with the City Clerk's Office by emailing clerk@roanokeva.gov or by calling (540) 853-2541 by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2023. If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodations for this hearing, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (540) 853-2541, before 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

The City of Roanoke provides interpretation at no cost for all public meetings, upon request. If you would like to request an interpreter, please let us know at least 24 hours in advance by calling (540) 853-1283.

La Ciudad de Roanoke proporciona interpretación sin costo por todas citas públicas, previa solicitud. Si usted desea solicitar un intérprete, háganoslo saber con al menos 24 horas de antelación por llamar (540) 853-1283.

Jiji la Roanoke linatoa huduma ya ukalimani bila malipo katika mikutano yote ya umma, inapombwa. Iwapo ungependa kuomba mkalimani, tafadhali tujulishe angalau saa 24 kabla kwa kupiga simu (540) 853-1283.

درخواست به مایل اگر بگذار می اختیار در شفاهی ترجمان هزینه اخذ بدون عمومی جلسات همه برای درخواست صورت در رونوک شهر بگذارید جریان در را ما (540) 853-1283 تلفون شماره با تماس طریق از قبل ساعت 24 حداقل لطفاً، استید شفاهی ترجمان

Given under my hand this 26th day of January, 2023.

Cecelia McCoy
City Clerk

Housing Needs Survey_ Roanoke Residents

What else can the City do to assist the homeless and those at risk of homelessness?

- Answered: 992
- Skipped: 392
- In other cities in the usa, it has worked when cities go ahead and House people first and then work on their needs such as mental health and food stamps. Getting them off the streets first then services second
- Do not have the assistance placed in just one locality. Offer shelter and housing in a variety of different locations through the city.
- Why does the City REFUSE to listen to Southeast neighbors? We live here none of you do! STOP making SE the dumping ground for things other parts of the City don't want to deal with. Help the homeless by offering them shelter in various parts of the City. There's drug peddlers on the streets in SE who look for homeless who will pandhandle for a money split. Give the homeless a chance at feeling safe. How about a shelter in Grandin Village, Crystal Springs, Norwich, Wasena, Monterey?
- Network more with existing agencies to reduce duplicate services. (Government and non-profit . Be more strategic about programs for people who are homeless. Have an interim housing plan.
- Provide a path to ownership in the city/county and put caps on rent (rent controlled areas).
- Recognize that landlords and capitalism are the problem. As long as people have the ability to mass purchase properties to rent this issue will never be resolved. Landlords have the ability to hoard up properties, increase rent to rates the average person can't afford, sell properties forcing people to move, do unnecessary renovations that force people to move...this whole survey is focused on finding people temporary shelters and places to rent. What we need are pathways to ownership. We also need more low barrier shelter options that aren't religiously affiliated. People clearly don't want to go to the shelters that currently exist and many of their reasons are valid.
- STOP allowing homeless people be bused into our city from other cities when they don't have the documents to prove residency.
- Discover the mental obstacles that prevent humans from prosperity.
- They have a voice and a rocky to vote regardless of homeless. Invite them, shoot down and talk with them. Build more affordable housing throughput ALL communities, not just SE and NW it must be a city-wide effort to have all stakeholders and taxpayers involved. Put it on the BALLOT Affordable Housing crisis has become a SERIOUS problem. Should be on the ballot. Help them get to these city meetings to hear from them. In all 50 states, unhoused people have the right to vote, even without having a permanent home address. People experiencing housing insecurity can vote using addresses from wherever they consider their residence, including temporary shelters, places where they receive mail, and street intersections. Clear neighborhoods with overgrown trees (like orange Ave nw) and build affordable housing. It used to be a thriving community and the city has allowed this community to deteriorate by funneling grant and federal funds to other communities. It's time for a change and to hold the mayor, governor and city manager accountable.
- The city needs to increase the income level for those who need assistance and give the vouchers for first month rent and deposit and transfer of utilities. A place that donates furniture would help.
- Rehab one of the empty buildings on Williamson Rd into a homeless shelter, food kitchen and provide mental services all in that one big building across the street from the New Yorker. It's big enough for multi use purposes.
- I am helping a formerly homeless man now. I met him on the street outside my building downtown. He told me he wanted to work for the money he was asking for. He was hungry and ded cigarettes. I had him move some boxes for me and paid him a little bit of money . I also sent him to TAP, where he was able to enroll in their homeless veterans program. They found him a room but the room was in a broken down building with bedbugs. He's off the street at least and TAP is working to find him better housing. I insisted that he enroll in their financial services program, which he did. They helped him lower his rent and are seeking an apartment for him. They found one in Salem, but it was unfurnished and an expensive bus ride away from everything he knows. They worked with the VA to get him a phone but I had to teach him how to use it. He had no idea even how to plug it in. He was finally able to

get in touch with his daughter in Texas and she sent him pictures of his grandchildren and great grandchildren but he let someone use his phone and they pushed the buttons and wiped it. The moral of this story is that they don't just need housing. They need long-term, consistent follow up. TAP is still working with him, and he is making progress. People like this man need intensive help in addition to the basic services. Perhaps the city could use some of the money to partner with and expand the existing services so that the results of each person's attempts to overcome homelessness can be successful and permanent.

- Financial education on how to save, couponing,
- Individuals that receive SSI, who are homeless, should be mandated to have representative payees to manage their finances. They need a responsible third party to help them save their money. Everyone should have the right to choose their own path; however, individuals with severe mental health illness and a co-occurring substance use disorder are largely unable to make rational decisions. These individuals need someone to help them make the right choices. If they receive SSI, they get a payee who saves their money and gives them an allowance each week. If that individual refuses to participate in mental health services, then they don't get their SSI allowance. They should have a case manager who can monitor their participation in their treatment. They won't starve because we have adequate food banks and they will be eligible for SNAP benefits. We need to help them make the right choices. Right now their getting SSI and nobody is making them follow through with their treatment team members.
- Rent control. Rentals in better neighborhoods
- Rent freeze on existing rental properties to stop/slow the increasing rental rates. Stop landlords and rental agencies from being able to charge an "application fee". (I realize that the VA code allows it but something needs to be done to stop the charging of this unnecessary fee. Either a city ordinance to override the va code or repeal the va code).
- Concertina wire and searchlights. Please no more hobo welfare ideas. They are disgusting and leave trash and garbage and do drugs everywhere. Have you even seen elm through Vinton? My god what have you created! Turn the ramada inn into a hobo deportation center. They can get jobs. The hospital is already short staffed and all the hobos use up limited resources.
- They could listen to and interact more often with the mental health professionals in Roanoke who have been commenting on this issue for many years now. It's not a problem that knowledge of policy practice alone will be able to properly address.
- Tents, blankets, coats
- One way that the City of Roanoke can assist with homelessness instead of creating additional shelters is to turn all the shelters into work-bed programs like the District of Columbia's Emery Work Bed Program run by the Coalition for the Homeless. HUD might even want to consult with places like the Coalition for the Homeless to see what has worked.
- Lack of affordable housing is the biggest barrier to attaining/maintaining housing.
- Stop prosecuting them for pan handling, what else are the going to do? I certainly don't mind seeing their smiling faces and stopping the car to give them what they need. Right now it feels like the only way to know you're helping. Could you make more volunteer opportunities as well?
- Build dorm-like housing with job training requirement; more case workers
- Word on the street is that Roanoke City has a reputation for having an abundance of services available to unhoused people. I think the City is in a position to, I don't want to say strongarm, but to strong arm other surrounding municipalities into stepping up their game when it comes to offering housing assistance options. Beyond this, I think more diverse transportation options will help folks look for housing in a larger radius. By more diverse I mean more regular, frequent bus schedules, more mixed use walkable planning to foster walking options, and expanded safe bike options (i.e. ballards around bike lanes). Ideally, I'd like to see a cap on rental prices and assistance options for landlords who need to renovate or repair existing properties. I think expanded pet-friendly housing options will encourage folks with Fido in tow to move indoors. I am part of a demographic that can't move from my very low-cost rented apartment to one that costs a little more and has in-unit laundry because of my quiet, litterbox-trained, indoor cat and because of insane hoops renters are asked jump through. Last, I think there needs to be more assistance offered to help people cover the cost of a move and assistance to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process. Despite being employed full time, I cannot the \$1200-

\$2000 a month rental properties are asking, and frustratingly, I can afford a monthly mortgage payment on a small home. This kind of vicious reality traps renters and contributes to the issue overall.

- Drug outreach programs
 - N/A
 - the rescue mission needs a van to take people to the employment office, HAT Team, Housing, etc. Cover more ground faster. Give bus passes by the week n month not the day. Extend SCSEP program by more years
 - Stop police harassment of individuals who sleep in abandoned properties
 - build another shelter that is a night shelter
 - offer more affordable housing
 - needs more affordable housing, push mental health and SA services (substance abuse)
 - Encourage rent reasonable rates for landlords to charge
 - We must treat them for mental health and addiction to even begin to get them employment or a place of their own to live!
 - Get to root cause of what is causing homelessness- focus on rehabilitation, job skills, life skills and mental health versus just shelter
 - Stop forcing so many rules that are unnecessary and make it hard for some people to go to a shelter
 - request information for reasons of homelessness prior to determining best way to assist/investigate ways to stop the begging
 - The homeless (and also indigent pregnant women) should be placed in secure (but separate) compounds where they get shelter, food, evaluation, services, and no private contact with outsiders. No drug access, no alcohol, no drama. They should -not- be permitted to solicit at corners, or wander, or sleep in non-dwellings, etc. Their other option should be to leave the area. They are in crisis and frankly do not merit having choices. They need to basically be told what to do and restricted until they get themselves together.... Or go elsewhere. It's that simple, really.
 - We moved to Roanoke in 1989. Since then homelessness has continually increased. Our family came within days of being homeless 5 times in those 30 years. Each time, because we manage our lives, we contacted and requested financial assistance from ALL the agencies available in Roanoke. NONE would assist. Why? Because, under the current process a person must first be homeless before they can qualify for help. A person must first have their power turned off before they qualify for help. A person must first have their water disconnected before they qualify for help. Do you see a pattern? Until any city establishes EFFECTIVE programs and assistance(easily available) to people facing the risk of homelessness, the epidemic will continue. Homeless cannot be solved from the homeless existence. The circumstances that create homelessness must first be arrested and stopped. Furthermore, Roanoke refuses to even acknowledge the hundreds forced into homelessness due to a overworked and ineffective court process in both the city and the county. 95% of all who become incarcerated while waiting for hearings/trials become homeless once released on bail or completion of sentence. Why? Because few people have a support system that can instantaneously compensate for a person who suddenly just "disappears" without warning-which is what happens when arrested. Mortgages don't get paid. Bills don't get paid/ Vehicles are repossessed. We have for all 30 years offered to sit and work with government to design some avenues to bring relief to the crisis that is never ending. All Roanoke wants to do is invent yet another failed process that "looks good" so even more funds can be consumed into more failure. Having been homeless (completely wiped out) 5 times in my life, my family are experts on how to recover. But....why listen to experts? Raymond Bell Roanoke, Va.
 - Not to take their money when they go to jail. the middle man and woman that work all their lives does not need their money taken away
 - they do what they can
 - have outside shelter from rain. outside bathrooms for homeless people
 - find shelter faster
 - give people funds so they can get started on the right track. also rent to felons. don't set them up for failure
 - just more help with mental health services
 - Work at making the City of Roanoke into a true living wage city. Add more affordable senior housing like Morningside Manor
-

- More affordable housing
 - Need another shelter besides the Rescue Mission. Need a shelter that is facilitated with CRMH for discharging homeless patients.
 - More affordable housing.
 - Create more transitional housing programs that allow residents to have wraparound services and have shelter access during the day.
 - Finding work arounds for some of the more technical parts of the application, such as simplifying wording, allowing other forms of proof of ID for those that have lost their licenses or SS cards. Allowing security deposits to be divided amongst the first six months of regular payments.
 - section 8
 - help find jobs - new job skills
 - city should keep homeless informed of plans
 - more shelter funding
 - day shelter
 - low income housing
 - write grants to help
 - the rrm does a good job
 - food shelter hygiene socks
 - we need rental assistance
 - acknowledge the homeless issue
 - help homeless have a productive life
 - fix old buildings for housing - cant afford 650 rent
 - affordable housing
 - funds to assist people from becoming homeless
 - lower rent rates
 - make it safe and help pay bills
 - no more hotdogs- that is all
 - need affordable housing - low income
 - transportation to day shelters
 - classes for stability
 - stop creating laws that harm homeless people
 - money for homes to stop it all
 - put me in my own home paid by the government
 - find solutions to quickly help - keep family's together
 - build apartments
 - build more affordable housing
 - Support and advocate for tenants with legitimate issues with local landlord and/or property managers. Create advocacy and mediation when there are concerns and issues. I have witnessed in Roanoke neglect for repairs, violations of basic codes and the Fair Housing Act while helping friends secure decent housing-- and these were by recognizable property managers/landlord names in this area. This can be especially problematic if a property owner lives elsewhere; he/she engages a property manager who can easily prioritize the property owner (and dollar returns) above the tenant's rights and needs by neglecting basic maintenance and safety and ignoring the tenant's concerns.
 - funds and food
 - ban drugs but not cigarettes'
 - provide more funding for rental assistance
 - day shelter
 - get homeless off sidewalks sleeping
 - tell social security to raise benefits
 - arrest drug and intoxicated subjects on the street
 - get more missions
 - build another shelter
 - make it easier to get identification
-

- build more affordable housing
- more homeless resources - agencies that pay security deposits and utility start up fees
- put up motel
- day shelter
- remodel abandoned houses
- day shelters
- Day shelter
- cover costs of housing expenses
- Research feasibility of allowing Medicaid to pay for rent in the City of Roanoke and allow it if feasible (see, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/headway/medicaid-housing-rent-health.html>); implement rent control; build affordable, safe and attractive housing; continue to provide ongoing supportive services to individuals who were homeless and are now housed to ensure continuity of shelter; ensure a process by which landlords avail themselves of all available rental assistance and other programs for their clients at risk of eviction; courts only evict as a last resort for inability to pay and after it has been verified that landlord and tenant have completed an eviction prevention plan and accessed all available resources; offer and maintain easily accessible port o potties for unsheltered homeless to use; recognizing that some unsheltered individuals choose to stay out of shelters, if enough housing isn't available to house everyone, designate outdoor spaces for those individuals to congregate and sleep without risk of criminal liability; study and understand the root causes of homelessness and institute programs and services that will set people up for future success at birth (e.g. baby bonds)
- Maybe some additional messaging on resources available to unsheltered folks.
- There are so many empty buildings and abandoned houses in the community that could be restored and used to help with the homeless population. I think like long term sober living facilities or "group homes" that offer safe housing as well as providing additional support services such as employment and mental health support.
- Access Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for any new development within the City limits that require a certain percentage of units used for low-middle income families as used by other states. Before providing tax breaks, business and building licenses discuss how the developers will be INVESTING in the neighborhood.
- More affordable housing options that are integrated into the community, rather than segregated. A percentage of every apartment complex could be mandated for families or individuals that are below the poverty line. This would allow these families to integrate into the community, build social and professional connections, cut down on crime, and allow for upward mobility.
- More affordable rental housing
- More affordable housing. We keep building high end apartments that people can't afford
- Provide adequate affordable housing versus luxury apartments that continue to be established.
- More services to help with addiction: not necessarily "cold turkey" solutions, no cost, immediately available. Shelter with low barriers for entry: non-religious, suffering from addiction More resources for mental health: counselors available outside business hours, fewer patients for each caseworker
- Need a community center in southeast or somewhere else for people to go during the day when rescue mission isn't open. All this does is create problems and a bad look for the city. Build more shelters there's no where for these people to go. Also have the police enforce trespassing and the homeless camps in plain view.
- I live in Salem and I don't see people sleeping and hanging in business doorways/parking lots or panhandling until I get to Roanoke. I think that vagrancy is a serious concern, but because people aren't accessing/can't access tools to succeed. Instead of handouts, we should be offering resources to help themselves. There are signs to thwart the panhandling, but they either can't read them/access the information or they just don't care. We should offer more accessible drug rehabilitation, job readiness programs and financial literacy classes that will help people help themselves.
- Stop driving them away by using police force and unnecessary bans downtown. These are individuals in need, not things to be thrown away, just because people are uncomfortable with them being around or the way they look. Create more AFFORDABLE housing opportunities for individuals, Create a shelter in which help is offered to those struggling to get service connected or placed in a home, not just sending them to the rescue mission to be kicked out and treated like garbage. Also don't just dump

this problem on CSB's or social services as this is typically what is done. We need to unite and help every individual in this community succeed.

- Invest in the decommodification of housing. Models exist in the USA, such as the Community Land Trust model, or abroad, such as the Mietshäuser Syndikat.
 - Enforce no panhandling and camping laws already in place.
 - There's value in exploring legal homeless camps and expanding the homeless assistance team and other support services to help operate these camps and tend to unsheltered folks. Landlord incentives and encourage affordable rental housing.
 - Continue to partner and expand partnership with non-profits such as Samaritan's Purse, The Least of These, and the Rescue Mission. Build a tiny home village or temporary shelter for when the weather gets below freezing.
 - Support wrap around services. Homelessness is about more than housing individuals, but also giving support and skill-building to allow people to be successful in being housed.
 - Don't include so many caveats/stipulations when it comes to providing assistance. Just impedes the entire process and point of helping.
 - Rent control. Increases are pricing thousands out of the rental market.
 - Request support (monetary and mental health) from surrounding areas whose homeless end up in Roanoke City.
 - Figure out how to cap rent costs or limit % increase on rent. Landlords are gouging people with poor living conditions. Enforce better living conditions. Fight for mobile home lot rental price caps.
 - Create safe places to seek shelter without all of the conditions and limitations of the Rescue Mission. If someone needs shelter at two in the morning, they should be able to find it. If they are LGBTQ plus, they should feel welcome. if they are disabled, they should be able to access services. Shelters with an eye toward inclusivity are needed in the area. We also need more communication about what to do when you can't make ends meet. How to apply for assistance with heating, electricity, rent relief, groceries. Outreach to those at risk.
 - Work with private landlords who will approve people who do not have credit established or may be had a background charge that is preventing them from getting approved through a rental company that requires these things. I have family members struggling with these things; but they work 40-60 hours a week, sometimes multiple jobs, and can afford housing. They just can't get approved through strict rental company requirements.
 - Housing first is critical, the issues of homelessness are compounded the longer that individuals sleep outside. Along with providing more affordable housing options and financial assistance if applicable, the city should work with local nonprofits and companies to provide job skills programs to help those who are unsheltered and/or living in temporary or unsustainable low income situations to rise out of poverty.
 - Improve education opportunities from earlier childhood to adults and to prevent substance abuse.
 - Directly convert the seized motels into shelters. Also, quit allowing the valley's largest drug dealer, Carillon, to run the city.
 - Improve the availability of housing to increase supply through construction and rezoning.
 - Build affordable rental housing instead of more boutique high cost rentals.
 - I am extremely worried about the number of rental units that are being built and billed as luxury housing with rentals upward of \$1500-2000 a month. Hardly anyone can afford rentals with that price! We are in dire need of housing with rent between \$800-1000 at maximum. I am in high support of low income housing becoming more available.
 - Update RHA website, there's no update changes most of the time. More information for low income housing for all areas. Better place to live.
 - Allow private citizens and businesses of the like to be able to provide solutions for the homeless or at risk population.
 - Continue to support the homeless.
 - protect them from slumlords and support the working class people with housing support
 - Train staff and all decision makers on gender inclusivity. Homeless transgender kids and adults are particularly marginalized and need to be supported.
 - Provide assist with people about to lose housing because the increase in cost of living.
-

- There are at least 3 groups of homeless folks 1 . The unexpectedly financially destitute. 2. The free spirited who love an uninhibited lifestyle. 3. The mentally ill (genetics or drug induced). There are different needs for each group.
 - Make preventative services to help people keep their homes, as well as their health a priority reducing eviction rates and subsidizing rent as they increase to 125-150% of their previous cost.
 - Provide affordable housing not just additional housing.
 - Is it true the majority of homeless people are former foster children. If so, there need to be more transitional shelters, guidance and counseling before entering the real world.
 - support the Roanoke Rescue Mission
 - Affordable housing is key, followed by permanent supportive housing for those needing this support.
 - encourage homeless population to WORK (and NOT pan-handle) ; REWARD Working Class Poor with affordable Housing.
 - Build more housing downtown
 - Have to motivate these people ultimately - if you confer free goods/services they'll be back to the well in no time. The heart of the issue is lack of emotional support. Must educate them and treat drug use and mental health.
 - There needs to be a focus on transportation to and from services. I believe if some of these individuals just had access to transportation for appointments, stores, etc, it would really help. Some form of shuttle service or other means dedicated to the homeless population would be valuable.
 - Places of worship could provide shelter for the homeless instead of being closed when no services are going on.
 - Our main organization interfacing with the homeless population absolutely cannot be a religious one. It limits the volunteer pool that can provide aid, and also will make some high risk populations very unlikely to seek help.
 - Start an awareness program and have Peer Specialist's assist them through the process.
 - Do they have a place to shower, get haircuts, help them find work, health benefits, and have a warm place to sleep?
 - There needs to be a combination of resources such as affordable housing, financial assistance and more temporary shelter. There needs to also be a true investment into providing mental health resources by providing better pay for those who work in the mental health field to encourage individuals to enter the mental health field.
 - Limit needle exchange. The government is giving addicts tools to use drugs making it easier.
 - dig in the parking garages, alleyways, and bridges, find them and give them an ultimatum of some sort - get sober/help/find work (and doing whatever that means ie: shelter or whatever)
 - Have seconded off areas in the community where the homeless can reside for free in like a tent or something similar so they have a temporary spot and avoiding sleeping on the streets
 - Work with Social Services and other agencies to reach out to at risk populations before they are destitute. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. Elder Support Services. Better inspections of existing "affordable" housing options so they do not close on the vulnerable persons in them.
 - Providing housing is only one fix, it means nothing if people are unemployed or if they can't get needed medical/psychiatric treatments.
 - More funding and street outreach. Local community and local law enforcement support and interactions.
 - More preventative services opposed to reacting to homelessness. Often individuals hear that they are ineligible for services until they receive an eviction notice and have a court date.
 - Assess if increased staff are needed on Homeless Assistance Team to match current rates of homeless folks. Consider education when rescuing folks financially to reduce cycle
 - Employ as many homeless as possible to aid in the construction/carrying out of the tasks above
 - Expand eligibility for housing assistance programs to those who make more than the current cut off requirements. Many people at risk of homelessness are those who make just above the cut off requirements and are ineligible for any assistance programs, yet struggle to pay for necessities.
 - Move them to another city
 - Provide more resources for employment and volunteer work to ensure that the population is engaged in the community.
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- Decrease Adverse Childhood Experiences and train more teachers, school staff, and city employees about ACE's. Start in the schools. Instead of spending money to increase security, spend money in building resilience in the children to overcome their experiences.
 - All of the above!
 - Providing affordable housing is imperative with the housing shortage in Virginia being upwards of 200,000 units short. Furthermore, more shelters in the area to accommodate those with trauma being in crowded areas (i.e.: individual rooms for one person). Providing more mental health supports and substance use programs to assist those who are homeless and struggling with both issues. Providing more homelessness resources such as more staff at the homeless assistance team, more day shelters, providing employment and income opportunities for individuals who have been previously incarcerated and/or have disabilities and are struggling to find consistent work. Provide housing for individuals who have been previously incarcerated and/or who have evictions on their records, as many individuals are denied for these previous issues, yet currently have the funding to secure and maintain housing. Reduce the negative stigma surrounding the homeless, substance users, and the mentally ill population.
 - Provide more day shelters, or activities during the day for those experiencing homelessness. Additionally, encourage more affordable housing (especially rental housing).
 - Rent is becoming increasingly unaffordable in Roanoke while wages remain stagnant. Increasing the amount of affordable housing for individuals and families should be a priority.
 - Outreach services to approach those who are homeless, to see what their needs are because all are different. Some are not willing to accept services. Develop a data base of who they are and where they try to stay. Services that are not with a religious expectation from the clients would be appropriate.
 - Build affordable and safe housing that doesn't cost 1200+. Create rental caps; at the bare minimum, at least protect those who are on fixed incomes. Rental prices in the city have increased drastically in the past year.
 - I feel more shelters to assist those without income would be most beneficial. Shelters where residents can feel safe and have good relations with our CSB and DSS, as we are normally the one's assisting with helping individuals obtain the income needed for permanent housing.
 - These churches and things that are not being used and or buildings should be turned into temporary shelters, and drug testing to help them and direct them to the next step of getting help that they need.
 - Provide more job opportunities
 - Enforce the law and stop letting them beg at corners and sleep on busy sidewalks during the day.
 - Create shelters that have less strict requirements, such as not requiring people to be sober. A lot goes into substance use recovery, and it is almost impossible to accomplish while under the intense stress of homelessness.
 - Need to provide affordable rental property. So if you build it, it needs to be affordable maybe sliding scale rental. Maybe require those receiving assistance to take classes on budgeting and cost savings. I know Social Services does this, but education is very important.
 - Put a cap on rental properties as far as how much they can charge. There is no benefit if the cost of living continues to raise with other customer goods. With groceries water, and electric increase. A monthly rent payment should not. This would put money back into pockets of family's and cost less for Roanoke city. In turn this would cause more spending making the city more funds.
 - The homelessness community has been a major issue that needs to be addressed. Clients come to BRBH with no where to go and end up having to go to their old unsafe environment (drugs, violence, assault, etc.) or literally sleep on the side of the road. Hospitals are overwhelmed due to people coming in there just for a warm place to sleep at night. This stressor causes more harm to people with mental illness and make them turn to harm their selves or harm someone else just to have a place to stay. We need something more than just the rescue mission. Also, we need a limit on some low income housing and section 8 housing. Many people stay there for years which leaves the rest of the community without resources. We either need to limit the stay in section 8 or build more section 8 places. It's difficult when people come from all over to Roanoke for resources. Maybe collaborating with different communities to have homeless shelters spread out so there's not so many that come to Roanoke and making Roanoke become overwhelmed.
 - Provide resources for them to get out of the cycle of homelessness such as financial and residential resources.
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- Develop long-term strategic plans around affordable housing, that includes how to sustain affordable housing growth
 - The current homeless shelter in Roanoke, the rescue mission needs major work. It is disgusting that you have to attend a religious service daily to get any kind of help. That is an infringement on religious freedom, it is morally wrong!! Food, water and shelter are human rights. No if ands or buts. This city has done nothing but try to erase homeless people and you're figuring out that doesn't work. Get these people proper mental healthcare, proper housing, and help them get back on their feet. You want to half way help them and are shocked when the homeless numbers are growing here.
 - Work towards improved public transportation to promote ability to work amongst those in this group
 - Can we purchase one of the hotels that are derelict, and create a low-cost rental unit? The city would have to hire people to structure that, so realize it might be too expensive.
 - Hire social workers to help with calls. This will prevent RPD from going and possibly escalating a situation that could be easily resolved by a social worker
 - Perhaps do more to prevent it?
 - Make all spaces (congregate settings, shelters, and rental units ACCESSIBLE for people with disabilities)
 - Create more low income housing and rental units
 - Monitor Landlord and Slum Lord's. Rental abuse.
 - Stop letting them congregate on corners and beg for money. It's not only a hazard to them but drivers as well.
 - Assist in making the shelters that already exist, thrive within the community. This is by providing money, grant opportunities, and City volunteer support.
 - Emergency funds available based on need; available places to go within 30 days when at risk for homelessness; RRHA & City to build apartments on empty lots with yrs of overgrown trees in NW & SE; fix up a specific area for them (provide blankets, tents, hammocks, benches), provide resource for a bath and meal once a week (at ymca), the mayor and city manager needs to go talk to them to see what they need.
 - Help the disabled from losing their house. I fear losing my small residence.
 - Provide more PSH vouchers and also provide project-based PSH vouchers so that more PSH projects can be created to target people at risk of homelessness.
 - Provide safe campsites for those who wish to remain outdoors, while they have access to mental health services to help them transition to shelters and/or housing.
 - Help them to find jobs and transportation.
 - The city needs to get all of the non profit homeless assistance organizations and churches working together to identify needs and fill in the gaps and make sure services are not duplicated unnecessarily. Private non profits need an incentive to partner with each other instead of constantly guarding resources or relying solely on feast or famine grant funded programs that disappear after a year or two. The city should provide sustained funds each year to a homeless task force system, not just one or two favored organizations. The city also needs to encourage truly affordable rental housing. Supporting organizations like Restoration Housing who are rehabbing derelict housing stock and bases rents on income level is a great place start. The new efficiency apartments on Williamson are another great contribution. We have so many empty buildings that can be rehabilitated, it just takes some investment and folks who understand what affordable rent actually is.
 - Create opportunities for home ownership and equity not rentals.
 - Stop enabling drug habits.
 - HCV approvals . More low income housing .
 - Pray
 - Send invoices to the localities that bus people to Roanoke.
 - Provide them safe spaces that aren't going to violate the city folk.
 - I have lived in the same apartment for several years. I have had the same employer, full time for over 7 years and I am above entry level. Why is it that I cannot afford a home for my children. Still in housing based on income. Poverty basically.
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- Provide mental and alcohol treatments for the homeless and job assistance programs and also find them temporary housing once they have completed the programs and also make them clean up after themselves instead of leaving trash everywhere they go.
 - Create wrap around case management that considers health needs, if the individual needs help getting employment or disability
 - provide transportation
 - Just do what Finland did. <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/jun/03/its-a-miracle-helsinki-radical-solution-to-homelessness>
 - Provide support to offset the increase in rents to make housing affordable. So many are experiencing a steep increase in rent while the cost of living is also increasing.
 - I think that homelessness exists, in part, because education fails to teach people how to think about work. School doesn't need to be preparation for a trade, but even the most liberal-arts education should have adult life in mind as a final goal. Teachers can help students get excited about work, but we simply don't talk about that. We teach people knowledge they need for work, but we don't instill in them the idea that work is good, and that refusing to work (when you're able) and choosing to depend on the generosity of others is stealing. This refusal to work also makes it hard for people to feel like whole, worthwhile selves. The City can push for education that helps young people understand that work is good.
 - The homeless that are regularly in shelters need to be provided with everything needed to maintain a job.. a lot of the homeless population are older people who can't fill out applications on websites etc. it needs to be more programs to keep the homeless in the loop.. maybe a shuttle bus to a temp service or jobs that pay daily such as Burger King. They can't wait 2-3 weeks for a check, it's discouraging. Also, if the shelter doors lock early, let's say at 7pm. If a homeless person finds a job that fits them, but not the shelter's schedule, like maybe a 3-11pm, then they have to choose between not working and not having someplace to go after work
 - in-force panhandling laws make trash pick up a priority stop park/street sleeping make staying in shelter more appealing vs. sleeping in street
 - Stop panhandling...
 - Inform individuals of A plan or program to pull them off the streets.
 - Those that don't want to work have rooms to just place them in so off the streets. Those that do want to work have assistance for them to afford housing.
 - If more Non Congregate shelters are created: the clients/guests should be required to have case management services to assist with finding resources: employment, medical care(mental and physical), sustainable housing. As well as guidance on money management, house hold management (grocery shopping/cooking/basic cleaning skills).
 - Please take the people off the streets and give them a SAFE PLACE TO STAY. I have seen these people at the airport sleeping in the bushes. Have some safe houses for these people to stay. Redo some of the empty houses that the city has and allow them to stay in there.
 - Making resources KNOWN and readily available to the demographic at most risk for housing insecurity.
 - Assist in giving those in homelessness a goal. Assessing their needs mental, physically, and financially. Instead of just sticking them in a home and saying good luck, help them go back to school, find jobs, find childcare, teach them basic life skills that will set this up for success instead of the never ending cycle of trauma and homelessness.
 - Do not waste any more money on housing people in hotels like during the pandemic, that money could be used to have built permanent housing.
 - Show more compassion
 - Turn some of the abandoned buildings/houses throughout the city into transitional housing for the homeless
 - Building homeless shelters would be wonderful. Often times in working with the homeless, we realize that these people have substance abuse disorder, alcoholism, and severe mental health that has gone untreated. If the city could provide more resources for treatment of addiction, alcoholism, and perhaps a homeless facility that can also treat mental health, it would be fantastic. Something to teach people how to be productive citizens and stop leaning on crutches.
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- Enforce no pandering on intersections. Won't that lead to finding better safer predictable income sources?
 - Incentivize private homeowners to provide tiny housing on site with grants / tax incentives. Streamline Zoning process to speed building of affordable housing. Numerous examples of builders encountering delays getting variances that are supported but get bogged down in the process. Example- small rental units near Honebaked hams -
 - Allow the homeless free bus fare
 - Remove them from begging posts. Provide meals. Provide evaluations to see what their needs actually are.
 - Send them away, do not cater to them, they are mostly mentally ill and are a danger
 - Talk with Landlords about affordable housing.
 - Safety is my biggest concern in this area and anyway to keep others safe. i.e. better street lighting and options for maybe blue light phone booths like school campuses have in big parking lots downtown. More options for better communication with people that need help so definitely support services.
 - More assistance getting started. Job services. Money management
 - More services for at risk to keep them from losing housing., Including rent assistance and working with landlords. Establish mini houses for those unable or unwilling to go to shelters. Work with Rescue Mission to be less religiously strict
 - Create motels and help assist with employment ...Give 6 months to get let them get on their feet. Teach money management classes. Then let them apply for Roanoke city rentals (in a different building) paying very little but help build their credit at the same time to graduate and be out on their own by the next two years. Cameras at every intersection to take license plate numbers of anyone handing out money and ticket the drivers who give the money. Knowing this is just enabling people.
 - Tiny house community for the Vets and mentality ill and our old
 - Outreach and enforcement of panhandlers and people loitering in groups. Offer options, guidance and enforcement on street level
 - Shelters for mental health individuals
 - Research on tiny homes.
 - Commit to supporting RAM House in their mission to provide safe day shelter, financial aid, and help them expand services by moving to a more adequate building.
 - Decriminalize sleeping on the sidewalks, remove signs that say not give to panhandlers as this stigmatizes homelessness and does not prevent panhandling.
 - Don't kick them off of the sidewalks when they have no where else to stay. Don't force them into religion for support. Please offer them more support services without strings, and with more ease.
 - Help those struggling that may soon be homeless. Create more job training programs that are in the neighborhoods not across the city.
 - Lower taxes and living costs.
 - Find something for them to do instead of congregating in the streets and having them beg for money. It's ridiculous how out of control the homeless population is today. Homeless is everywhere but the SE area is awful and living in that area it makes other people in that area who work hard look bad and get a bad rep.
 - Tiny house communities, Help nonprofit organizations that assist families so they can house together Assistance to owners of apartments to help them house low income renters
 - Help the ones that want help getting off the streets...they need REAL affordable housing. The ones that DONT care or want off the street should be arrested for loitering and soliciting and then be given community service.
 - Have more open resources for job searching, hygiene facilities, housing shelters, and food kitchens.
 - Outreach, awareness, destigmatization, there are a ton of resources available it just seems like a lot of times people are afraid or prideful and don't want to ask for help. So I think there needs to be initiatives to reach to person, serve them, offer education, but we can't wait for the homeless or impoverished to seek us.
 - Have shelters that are available to all without restrictions. In shelters and rental areas, have a social worker or other mental health professional available. Just because these are very challenging situations doesn't mean they're hopeless.
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- Provide more places for them to go during the day. Create more LOW INCOME housing rather than continuing to build rental properties that the majority working class of Roanoke cannot afford.
 - More affordable housing. Financial counseling
 - Maybe have a program where the homeless person have a case worker to make sure they have what they need. And make sure to be able to stay in the program you have to stay clean and follow all the rules and guidelines.
 - Have less red tape
 - There needs to be more access to services that are not faith-based. The Rescue Mission does a great job and while they say you're not required to participate in services, we all know that is not the reality of what happens. When people are literally struggling to survive, the last thing they need is to be forced to do something they don't want to do. This prevents people from accessing not only the shelter, but other services that may assist them in getting back on their feet. The City should consider shelter tiny home communities like the one through Hope of the Valley in CA.
 - Move them to another city! They are mostly criminals and you all have allowed them to destroy the entire city.
 - Take abandoned homes & rebuild on the land in such a way as to create homes that can't be easily destroyed, thinking concrete & unexposed plumbing/electricity. Then turn the land parts of the property into food & plant gardens to hide & feed them. Anyone creating a disruption is out of there.
 - More enforcement to stop panhandling in the city. If you make more money at an intersection than job there is no incentive.
 - Stop hostile architecture targeted at homeless people and youth
 - The homeless in Roanoke stay homeless because they do well making money panhandling and therefore can continue to fuel their underlying issues (substance use). Create laws that fine people for giving to panhandlers. Make it easier for people to donate directly to helpful sources such as rescue mission instead.
 - Providing more affordable and/or government housing. More vouchers for families needing rent assistance
 - Bathing centers and clothing washing centers. More homes for homeless women and children.
 - Fine or ticket people that pan handle at intersections . Shut down the homeless camps and ticket or fine the ones that choose to live outside. Clean our city up .
 - Build Supportive Housing Units to assist those who need additional support services to live independently
 - Housing should be affordable in this city. Pay levels do not allow people to get into affordable housing. Rent prices are incredibly overpriced for the terribly poor quality of the units available. Decent, safe places are even more expensive. Rental inspections and rental maintenance need to be current and enforced so that housing is livable.
 - More rental housing units for low income households is desperately needed in the City. Increasing access to affordable rental housing will have the MOST impact on those experiencing housing instability and/or homelessness in the community.
 - Offer incentives to building owners whose building is unoccupied to open them up as temporary shelters
 - I feel that in many ways the city does a lot to assist the homeless. I would say assistance could be focused more on ensuring those who are at risk of homelessness don't end up there. Also I think that more affordable 1 or 2 bedroom rentals should be looked at. Not luxury apartments downtown, but affordable places for individuals to stay.
 - more mental health care
 - Look into "housing first" models of assistance. These models have shown greater success in assisting those who are homeless. Also, something should be done about rental prices. They have sky-rocketed in the past 2 years.
 - Set up a meeting with them, To learn their story and how they became homeless.
 - more beds, more outreach services
 - Provide more drug rehabs that allow for longer stays than 30 days transitional type housing with in house counselors.
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- Find out individual causes of homelessness. Some is due to physical health, others due to mental health and drug addiction, and some are too accustomed to living on the streets to live elsewhere.
 - well known points of presence
 - Mental illness, PTSD, drugs, single-parent homes, inadequate paying jobs, uninformed of available services, and being uncooperative seem to be the main cause for the homeless. Large amounts of money has been thrown at this sad situation with little results - maybe a step back and input from the homeless themselves could help solve this situation that should have been addressed earlier with winter coming on. There is a large population of retirees in Roanoke City (and other local areas that includes construction, healthcare providers, etc.) that could possibly shed some light on the solution. Maybe research other localities how they could help as a lot of the homeless do come to the Roanoke City to partake of our services. Just a thought.
 - Stop letting homeless people come in on the bus from other states
 - assist the current homeless shelters
 - Push for a livable wage, harsher punishment for drug dealers, build a tiny home village for homeless
 - A lot of people who are homeless have pets and won't get rid of them to go to the shelter. We need to as a community take the stigma away that keep homeless persons from seeking help. Make things like repairs more affordable so people are able to get things fixed and not have to loose there homes. There are so many properties in Roanoke that are falling apart. Roanoke needs to renovate them and make them affordable for families.
 - Terminate Keith Holland
 - lower rent
 - The city of Roanoke could assist the residents of Stratford village who have just survived a fire, residents are moving back into the building and they need cleaning supplies at least and representation from the city at most to deal with the landlord who treats people arbitrarily
 - Find a way to clean up and monitor the visual drug use downtown. This would deter the homeless from seeking a dangerous outlet.
 - Turn some of the old motels or vacant buildings into temporary housing that is regulated
 - Make programs known that are already available. Create more shelters, more mental health programs
 - Help with bus passes to get to job interviews and work
 - Lower rent cost, lower property taxes, omit plastic bag tax
 - Provide shelters with less stipulations
 - 1st do not let them panhandle. The police need to stop this every time they see it. It's allowing them to continue in same behavior without a new option.
 - Assist with job programs, trainings and such so they can make money to afford their housing and bills
 - We have 2 shelters...both always at capacity. Why do we NOT have more sheltering for the homeless?
 - Tiny house resources and greater policing. Provide incentives for drug treatment and resources to pay for treatment.
 - Enforce median laws and get the lazy junkies back to work
 - I wish I knew.
 - Help with businesses buying up rental houses and the terrible rental market prices
 - Give a d@mn about people. America today seems to be so worried about the individual, but our society is made up of all peoples. We must be compassionate and try to assist those that we can. Many are only a paycheck away from homelessness. We have to care.
 - Really need more than one shelter.
 - Law enforcement to enforce the laws pertaining to pan handling, loitering, guns, and drug. These are obvious through out the city yet ignored by law enforcement.
 - Build more low income homes give more section 8 out
 - Develop programs that will improve public safety interactions with homeless population.
 - Homeless primarily need a place to stay and knowledge and access of where to go to for assistance of any kind. Risk of homeless should receive temporary financial aid and employment aid. Most all visibility for resources and how to access the resources. It should be so common knowledge even the hospital doctors (and everyone in between) know where to go as second nature.
 - Have more non threatening units and complexes to move into based per race
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- Quit letting them abuse the system and take from those who do want to make it back on their feet. Make them work. Half of them CAN work.
 - I don't know
 - More affordable housing.
 - Crack sown on pan handling
 - Get them jobs
 - Rent control. Rent is ridiculous it's hard to find something for under 1000\$ a month.
 - Offer some emergency assistance programs
 - Stop the handouts and only give hand ups
 - Start taxing the money they collect off the streets. A majority of our "homeless" that beg on the corners are not homeless. So in referring to the people that are actually homeless, we need to offer job training, resources to help them obtain work (because there is plenty of non skilled work available.) We also need to offer safe and anonymous housing for domestic abuse victims that requires the residents to obtain either training or job applications each week. There always must be accountability, even for victims, when free housing is provided. And not just accountability but they must provide something in return for their housing. When adults aren't productive, they fall into a slump that is difficult to get out of. As humans, we have an inherent desire to be productive. So make sure people receiving aid are "working " for their housing (whatever that may consist of.) There are a lot of non skilled jobs in Roanoke that could be completed by people receiving free housing, and they could then receive minimum wage to pay for their groceries and this save the city a lot of money in their employment cost. Yes, this would require a lot of coordination and paperwork but it could really benefit both sides.
 - Food and Latrine services. A place for homeless trying to better themselves to get necessities in order to better there lives so they can make actual progress.
 - Create more opportunity for affordable housing. Provide more shelter services for those in crisis without barriers such as religion and sobriety.
 - Make them get a job or 2 to help with rent. If you give them everything they can not do for themselves down the road. Many times in my life I have had to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. No one helped me.
 - Improved public transportation infrastructure so individuals can travel to and from work or outlying Roanoke communities. The current limited hours of transportation availability and limited routes aren't consistent with needs of available employment opportunities.
 - Buy a hotel and make it a room and board place. People take more pride in a place if they have to work for it.
 - Work with The Least of These ministries to help provide stable and permanent housing for the homeless.
 - By getting rid of slumlords who evict tenants for no reason.
 - Get some safe housing for people.
 - Stop panhandlers and camping in city limits.
 - Build more affordable housing, People are bound to face potential homeless with rental rates being what they are.
 - Build showering facilities for homeless, outside of the shelters.
 - Expand day shelter options, offer transitional motel housing, have motels accept vouchers, establish publicly run night shelter
 - Empty warehouses should be opened up as homeless shelters
 - Remove them from the street corners
 - Put a stop to the Rescue Mission stealing 75-90% of the homeless people's income and receiving donations that do nothing to help the homeless.
 - Provide work.
 - Address the lax laws that allow landlords to keep housing in poor condition without consequences
 - More substance abuse programs and financial classes that can help one to raise their credit or programs to help someone buy a house
 - Look at the pay wages for our city and "think" is it a livable wage for our current rent?
 - NA
 - Drug treatment programs and mental health services
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- The city should buy a large building or old apartment complex and use it for homeless families and the elderly definitely do back ground checks to make sure the children living there will be safe.
 - Shut the rescue mission down. Question number one is bullshit don't build anything. I have to put a answer to submit the survey.
 - N/a
 - I'm not sure because some don't want help
 - More shelter space. Reach out programs to provide the homeless with blankets meals. People to help them find jobs easier phone services
 - Stop creating hostile architecture to discourage poor people from existing in public.
 - Have a policy that 10% of all units in apartment complexes being built must be set aside for federal guidelines affordable housing (30% above the poverty rate). In addition, pass a regulation that a developer may only use the term "affordable housing" when it will follow the federal guidelines.
 - Encourage police to interact with homeless in a non-aggressive way. Re-evaluate petty crimes committed mostly by homeless, and see what changes can be made to avoid these problems.
 - provide transportation to shelters for the homeless.
 - give this the respect and need it deserves and also be aware of any who claim to be homeless but only wants the money
 - Have the homeless help physically with fixing up or building shelters. They need to be productive.
 - Work towards a true living wage for everyone.
 - Stop building fancy expensive apartment buildings. There motels etc that have been empty for years here. Make them into cheap studios that the people who struggle the most can afford. Also a large part of the homeless I see have a drug problem and have no interest in bettering their situation. They like panhandling for cash and don't want to work. An opportunity to work needs to be given to everyone. Those who don't want to take it shouldn't receive assistance. There needs to be consequences.
 - Give more clothing to the homeless when they need it we definitely need more shelter
 - Have the cops do there job and arrest the drugies and drunks.
 - Homes for teens who no longer qualify for foster care.
 - Not looking at felonies to deny the person bc every single person has them these days
 - Create more food pantries, work to eliminate food apartheid, better public transportation options.
 - There are other local organizations out there trying to help but rely solely on the generosity of others to stay afloat and do what they do. It would be nice if the City had a way to vet these places and work closer with them to optimize the work they do. Let the "ground pounders" do their best work by giving them the tools to succeed in helping our less fortunate.
 - Increase eligibility for these programs
 - Need more affordable housing and to do away with the zoning rules that only allow for 4 unrelated people to live in a home. You think it will stop violence, however, most of the violence at homes are domestic related. So FAMILIES ARE THE REASON FOR THE VIOLENCE.
 - Funding
 - Develop more low income housing tax credit units and build more AFFORDABLE rental housing in desirable areas of the city.
 - Stop tearing down the safe spaces that homeless people have without replacing them. Like the Ramada Inn. Stop criminalizing homelessness.
 - Look into how other cities (which similar in population size, unemployment rate, and homeless) and see which tactics they're using to combat at-risk homelessness and homelessness.
 - Provide buddy programs to get them jobs and back on their feet.
 - Provide more overnight shelter options. Provide specific encampment areas.
 - Ensure they get JOBS, stop giving them handouts
 - Lower taxes to make housing more affordable. Revamp the justice system to encourage more people to provide rental units-holding tenants accountable. Jobs programs to teach skills. Help people but make them help themselves as well! Provide temporary assistance, not permanent.
 - Connect them to jobs and job readiness programs. And ensure the are accountable in attendance to better themselves.
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- Instead of making people at the Roanoke shelter leave they should be able to stay inside just like everyone else that has a home to go to and there should be ways for them to have a day job to earn money for the day
 - Ask other churches and ministers to partner to be more fully service starting with specific area when the homeless can be safe among together to live temporary provide services to help each individual take their next steps
 - Provide more shelters or temporary housing. Why let houses sit abandoned and not take care of use the available empty houses wisely, the homeless are a serious problem in this city, and beautifying neighborhoods and parks is not the answer. City Council has spent too many years, pretending the problem doesn't exist or isn't, that bad, wake up.
 - We desperately need safe and affordable housing, health care including mental health treatment.
 - Pass a no loitering ordinance and keep them from harassing people on the streets.
 - Stop panhandling, tear down tent communities by the highway
 - Jobs and jail time. Stop all pan handling.
 - More safety precautions in place..
 - Public works projects
 - Rehab abandoned homes and hotels and let the homeless move in.
 - Stop delaying benefits
 - Find jobs
 - Job losses and financial draining.
 - Affordable housing, rent is so expensive for a one bedroom, property managers now require renters to make 3 times the rent to qualify. I work full time, make \$46000 but would not qualify for units that are below my current rent.
 - The real problem is the homeless are nearly always addicts. The first step should be to removed them from the streets, then move them into rehab centers by court order. This would be a massive undertaking, but it has been done elsewhere with success.
 - Start hearing people out the 1st time they come and tell you something if you can do some to help do it don't blow it off when you have the authority to help . If the people y'all have In place can't help then hire a new set of people that's dedicated to the community and will stop at nothing to see our community prosper start
 - Make mental health care more available
 - Create residential substance abuse and mental health treatment options.
 - Provide covered areas that they can use to "camp out" that are away from residents , visitors and consumers.
 - Permanent supportive housing
 - Provide more low income, section 8, and housing vouchers. Shorten wait times for such housing. Some people, myself included, cannot wait 2 years to get into an apartment suitable for a disabled person on SSI.
 - Do not help these people. They sit at the corner at Sheetz on Williamson and beg for money, just to use on drugs. They don't want help
 - Enforce laws prohibiting outdoor homeless camps (used by addicts & thieves)! Require enforcement of laws prohibiting drug-dealing, prostitution and gambling houses in Section 8 complexes!
 - get them vocational training
 - Reform the penal code. When people live paycheck to paycheck, a simple arrest can start a chain reaction of losing a job, then housing Maybe make jail only somewhere people arrested for felonies go, and misdemeanors are tickets only, no arrest?
 - Help those at risk of homeless not become homeless an help those who are by helping with employment an temporary lodging if a person has a goal to work towards there more motivated to work
 - Provide legal assistance to those facing eviction. If the landlord follows the legal process the judges 95% grant possession. There are things that legally be done.
 - Better public transportation
 - More access to state hospitals for mentally incapacitated individuals that are experiencing chronic homelessness. Access to day shelters would also increase dignity and welfare of people experiencing homelessness.
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- When they come to you for help, stop giving them the run around. Give them as much help as is available.
 - Build tiny houses in an area where homeless can congregate and live for free. As wanderers leave use tiny house for another resident. Plant fruit trees and a garden in the area where the homeless care, share, and eat. Have a small shop for clothing. Daily classes and leadership on getting out of the "hole" and seeking employment, child care, affordable housing, and life stability.
 - Train police to engage with those suffering from homelessness in a way of providing support and assistance, not looking to penalize them. Require all politicians to volunteer at a community focused nonprofit for 100hr over the course of their term, work closer providing support to non religious nonprofits that help prevent and rehabilitate from homelessness.
 - Stop supporting them
 - Offer research based substance abuse programs for the homeless.
 - More affordable housing options are needed as well as increase in job opportunities, job training (financial assistance) and competitive wages. It is an unfortunate reality that many City employees do not earn enough to obtain housing in the area. Employees have had to relocate as a result.
 - Houses sitting empty could be renovated and rented to those in need ACCORDING to their income ability, which should not be exorbitant beyond their means
 - Do not encourage more homeless to come to Roanoke City. Use resources for longer term residents who have fallen on hard times.
 - Use some of these abandoned buildings as affordable housing. That would help the neighborhood and assist the homeless population as well.
 - Create a taskforce to go around and speak to the homeless and find out why or how they became homeless. And give them bottled water and a food gift card like to Subway or McDonald's just for speaking to them. Finding out the reason some became homeless help you prevent more from becoming homeless if you knew the cause. And I can't imagine this program/taskforce would cost taxpayers much
 - Daily meals
 - Help provide lower rent/mo. Everyone is raising rent but no one's income is raising. Makes it hard for people to actually live
 - Give them temp shelter and register after a certain get a job a lot of them is not as bad as they try to make it seem like they are I know for a fact that the lady that sits at the corner of orange and gainsboro is not she has an apartment and works at the store on liberty road .this is what is happening with a lot of those people just to sorry to work also the man that sits up on Melrose is doing the same thing.this is why I think the homes should just be a temp thing cause there is jobs.example they can get up early to stand in the road to hold a sign and beg for 8 hours they can get a job if it's no where but McDonald they are always hiring.
 - Offer housing or rooms but require and or offer work/jobs in order to receive such housing or rooms. Like provide a list of jobs you can choose from that pay for your housing and helps you get back to being a productive member of the community again
 - Relocate those willing to move to a more "accommodating" area such as Richmond. Institutionalize those who are not sane of mind. Incarcerate those sane but unwilling to move under vagrancy laws, providing them much needed housing and employment opportunities within our fine prison system.
 - Assist with childcare that will allow parents to work full-time
 - More financial programs and education to help assist with preventing homelessness.
 - Provide them resources to appear clean such as showers and haircuts. It goes a long way for their job search
 - Give those people section 8 for a while . Help them with jobs..
 - Create more mental health awareness
 - Create an app to donate to with ease and pay out to registered homeless actively engage in all recommended available services as in #1
 - Make it easier to receive help. I have been homeless since 3/16/2022 because the property I rented for 5 years was sold. The new owner put us out to on the street because his sister wanted my home.
 - Roanoke needs stronger tenant protections and greater accountability for landlords. Evictions should not happen on the scale they are happening in Roanoke, nor should they happen in the way they are happening. This is a justice and equity issue.
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- Encourage the homeless populace to not disrupt the activities of local consumers ingesting liquidity into the local economy
 - Create Job training. More Affordable Housing or Match families with houseless individuals
 - Focus on safe, affordable, and accessible housing, for disabled people.
 - Develop single room occupancy housing with supportive services
 - Give people help who behind there rent or mortgage due to prices and inflation
 - Counseling. support from churches, meal voucherd, clothing, shelters
 - To assist the homeless and those at risk of homelessness we absolutely must include EVERYONE. We must not exclude anyone from any religion, lifestyle, gender, etc. There are dozens of houses sitting vacant in every neighborhood. There are housing waiting list YEARS long, why can we not put some of those families in those homes maybe temporarily atleast till they get something better? Instead of keeping someone in the projects while they are waiting for their habitat for humanity home being built, temporarily put them in one of the many vacant houses and put someone else who's been waiting on the project housing. Valley view mall and a bunch of other random buildings just rot away, turn that into ACTUALLY affordable housing. One person by themselves can't afford \$1,000 by themselves for an apartment. \$700 is a little more do able. Roanoke needs more of that. The mall could also have actual stuff to do. And bring jobs n help stimulate some kind of money here.
 - Policies that promote stable family life
 - Mobile services, trash containers, portapotties, public showers, warm up stations.
 - Monitor rental increases. I'm in a oldsters bldg -a bunch of them - & our rent increases 200\$ \ yr with no improvements. Food sucks. Amenities are disappearing. Bldg cable is contracted out to cox. "Independent" living is used as the grabber to fill rooms. Most are requiring assisted living which the "medical" person supplys without paying workers social security"her"employees social security. Chef is a fraud. Grill chef. His grabbing & yelling causes a constant overturn in kitchen staff. No one cares.
 - Help them like President Bush planned, welfare to work, buy let them get 6 months in before pulling all the resources away.
 - Build mobile stations to wash clothes.
 - Help with government housing more
 - Stop making the rent so high that people can not afford the rent do being a single parent trying to raise their children and having to pay utilities 1200 for a 3 bedroom that use to be like 750.00 but because all these apartments and condos being built the city going up on rent is outrageous and it's not even the suburbs or Rich area it's in areas where there's a lot of crime that they want you to pay \$1,2 00 to \$1,700 in rent for a two bedroom and just as much for a three bedroom
 - Provide more places for the homeless to get out of the cold weather
 - Renovate empty buildings that are not being used to provide more shelters.
 - Place a cap on increases made to current rental properties
 - Whatever the city can do to help with the astronomical costs of rent would be most helpful. Rental assistance and more rental housing is desperately needed.
 - Provide affordable housing and financial literacy services.
 - Regulate slum lords who take advantage of us.
 - Time is running out though homeless people live in a hotel pay their hotel rooms
 - Provide transportation for them a Job
 - Find a house for them to live in till they can get back on their feet
 - Less shelters that are mission / church based & operated. Most people experiencing homeless do not feel safe, accepted, nor respected in these shelters from the local homeless population I have talked to.
 - Educating and rehabilitating the homeless population to lift them to the point of self sufficiency should be the goal. Providing free meals and shelter is necessary in the interim but does nothing to change their status as homeless.
 - have more housing/temp housing and pressure those that keep rejecting the options that are available.
 - Offer additional transportation options so people that can't afford a vehicle can still go to work. Offer additional programs to help provide health care and mental illness services.
 - provide affordable rental units, job training and placement after school child care and help with transportation to their work.
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- Provide resources to help keep the streets safe. And offer assistance and support to those resources that are in place currently
- Provide more affordable housing. Not shelters for the homeless but actual affordable apartments.
- Work to find short term affordable rental units. More long-term than a motel.
- Too many homeless that are not willing to work. I see homeless standing in front of a store or restaurant with signs showing they are hiring but instead the homeless still stand with a sign asking for help. You have to be able to help yourself to make the right steps in the right direction. Too many abusing the system currently that we have in place. Sad to see in the city i live in!
- Roanoke seems to be pushing its unhoused population from place to place within its City limits. Instead of the effort expended on this tactic, money and strategy should be put into affordable housing stock. Perhaps the City could consider partnering with another organization for a Land Trust or Land Bank. *The Rescue Mission should not be relied upon as the City's sole option.* Its requirements can be a deterrent to certain populations. There should be a secular option for those at risk of homelessness.
- Provide designated areas for them with portable bathrooms and showers
- Stop the people who aren't homeless asking for money on every street corner.
- Make the city a less inviting place to be homeless.
- Create a legal system that doesn't demonize the impoverished.
- Give housing to homeless people along with jobs that will be enough to afford the rent in which it will cost them to stay there. If you get a select amount of jobs from places that will cooperate with the program you pair it with housing that will agree to said terms and get some people and families off the streets.
- Have more shelters and some type of assistance with the individuals that are homeless. Something for them to do. What's there for the homeless to do in the day. Make up jobs.
- Assist in the provision of day shelters
- Do more to help victims of domestic violence and advertise the help that is available. Since the pandemic started, domestic violence has increased dramatically and most victims leave with nothing.
- Harm Reduction
- More safe day shelters would be helpful. More assistance in accessing resources at shelters would also be helpful. I am also in favor of creating affordable boarding house type options. Even if people only have a private room and have to share the rest of their space, that would be better than current options.
- Stop charging them \$250 if they sleep downtown. This doesn't make people go to shelters, it just makes them move to a different area to continue sleeping on the streets (such as Wasena). There is a REASON people don't want to go to the shelters here and charging them for not going is evil.
- There is a lack of long term shelter, while people can get help with renting, it doesn't fix the reason they became homeless in the first place.
- It's important that shelters allow homeless people to live there without requiring them to abstain from drugs, attend religious services, or other prerequisites that might discourage people from living there. Housing must come first before people can address their other problems.
- I think we need housing mostly in SE Roanoke near the Tobacco store. The homeless there harass people constantly and trash the whole corner.
- Eliminate the ticketing of folks experiencing homelessness. It only compounds the issues that human is facing, now with fees, court costs, justice involvement, etc. It is pointless on every front and truly one of the most absurd, harmful, intentionally cruel things I have ever heard. We also need housing for folks with substance use disorder. A 'housing first' model is well established as successful, evidence based approach to both homelessness and SUD. Those folks continue to fall through the cracks of the piece-meal approach currently available. We also have incredibly inflated rental costs for a town of this size/location, with a lack of availability of subsidized housing.
- The city has plenty of programs in place to help the homeless population. The problem is they do not want to meet the requirements of these shelters because they require them to be sober. These people are offered help constantly they just don't want to take it, more assistance will not change this.
- Trauma is the main cause of substance abuse and homelessness. Put more resources into helping kids and stopping crime.
- Create a low barrier shelter, run by the City, which addresses the needs of individuals, whether it be keeping a family together, pets, health issues, etc. The City also needs to encourage the other local

governments and the business community to help with this issue, either financially or through other support

- Think outside the box. Designate public spaces to host homeless people. Make it like a campground with tiny cabins, bathhouses, etc.
- Do not build infrastructure (chairs, vents, sidewalks) that's hostile to the homeless. Provide financial assistance before homelessness occurs.
- Get them off the streets! Stop the panhandling. Look at what other cities have done to stop the problem and model after them. DC had the issue of homeless sleeping on the Mall in the 80's and 90's they have issued the proper laws to keep them away from the tourist areas.
- Enact policies to help drive down the cost of renting such as area-wide income-based rental caps. Ex: monthly rent for homes, apartments, and other dwelling should be prohibited from exceeding 30% of the average bottom 50% of residents in a zip code.
- More civic ,church, and workplace initiatives to support the various homeless projects that exist in the RV.
- Tiny house pod communities that people can pay minimal rent, if any. Personal spaces that they can use for security. Model them after the many cities who have done this successfully. Typically they are able to find more permanent housing after a period of safety that allows them to save money.
- There are many empty buildings in Roanoke. Can these be converted to apartments or housing? Large hotel behind WDBJ7 converted to apts but the rent is over \$1400! Citizens who can pay over \$1400 are looking for houses, not typically apartments!
- *make assistance services widely known *provide financial support for individuals who are genuinely interested in securing housing/employment *Foster a civic environment in which homelessness is treated as an emergency but which does not support long term homelessness - Roanoke should be a place where it is ready to stop being homeless, not easy to continue being homeless
- Address peoples' individual needs. Ask someone what they need, and help them on an individual level to break through the barriers keeping them in a place of risk. Everyone's situation is different, and peoples' troubles need to be treated with the respect and care that they deserve. Don't make assumptions about what people need or want, and approach unhoused individuals with the same respect you would approach anyone else.
- Please treat homeless as humans who have value and self sustaining abilities-encourage them to be their own advocates. The increase in the number of those WILLING to be homeless to avoid responsibility is increasing. The population appears to be growing rapidly in males ages 19 to 59 who could be productive. Taught skills, which would decrease depression anxiety and crime. They must have some expectations made of them or they remain dependent. And have too much free time for drugs or illegal activity which will continue to worsen thanks to inflation. Motel rooms become huns for drug use and prostitution. Motel/hotel owners are known to be complicit. You must police temporary shelters.
- Increase case management and advocacy services at agencies like HAT, offer support for thing like application fees and background checks for people who are struggling to find apartments, and provide more amenities at existing day shelters
- Shelters for aged and disabled. There are NO options for those with mobility issues. The mission will not accept them
- Somehow separate homeless with mental health and drug abuse issues from homeless due to job loss, working poor, rents too high. Stronger code enforcement of rentals
- Lower rental cost
- Require permits for panhandling. This will lend credibility to those on the streets who have fulfilled the requirements for a permit and allows officers the ability to charge those abusing the system and giving Roanoke a poor view of all homeless.
- Treat substance abuse as a medical issue and not a criminal one. Prioritize mental health services for homeless and almost homeless population (if you are homeless you go to the front of the line)
- Lessen the time required to process lease/rental agreements. Short term ~6mo rentals. Job training for felons.
- This isn't question I should be answering. I vote and pay taxes to have people in charge that can make these decisions. This city is going to shit. You can't go anywhere downtown or out by valley view

without being harassed for money. Meanwhile criminals sit on town council and milk my taxpayer dollars for their own benefit. The mayor and council are complicit in this matter and utterly worthless.

- Look to other communities that have built tiny home communities with intent to help the house less population. Many roadblocks in getting a job is not having access to a physical address. The dignity of a place with a lockable door. An area to get a shower, laundry, or sleep. The shelters don't feel safe for many.
- Use where they are currently staying outside as an asset not somewhere to clear them out (behind Lowes on Hersberger)
- Implement Housing First and harm reduction practices so that people with SUD who relapse are not kicked out of their shelter or housing, which only makes it worse.
- I'm sure the city owns several buildings that are mainly abandoned put them in there. And screen them for drugs and alcohol who knows I don't know but it's a it's really becoming a nationwide problem
- Assistance programs are the number 1 thing needed so that people can get back on their feet without getting stuck in a cycle of poverty. Curbing panhandling is also a major issue. The issue I see with more financial assistance is it simply continues to reinforce the ability of predatory landlords to raise prices. Rent hike caps are also something severely needed
- Treat everyone with respect and compassion first of all and keep these rental landlords from jacking rental prices through the roof and not fixing their properties. The slum lord issue is major in Roanoke!
- I think assistance should be limited for a timeframe to get these people back on their feet and able to support themselves again
- I have experienced homelessness several times since I moved to Roanoke three years ago and right off the top of my head there are two things that I can come up with: 1) Increase public transportation. The bus routes are very limited and as such it can be hard for people to make it to work. Night shift workers, for example, have to go to their places of employment hours early due to the fact the bus routes stop at 9PM. And that is not considering the fact the buses don't run on Sundays and don't go everywhere in Roanoke. This forces people to pay for expensive Uber or taxi rides to get to and from work. 2) Rent control. People are being priced out of their apartments and homes constantly under the guise of "inflation" or some such nonsense. While indeed this is an issue that is happening across the country, the continued ignorance of this issue will only result in more people on the streets in the long term.
- This city needs more well paying jobs! We have an abundance of restaurants, banks, and hotels but not companies.
- Help them in this order; Increased social services ie mental and medical health, employment assistance etc. Turn the old rundown drug dens (ie the Ramada or days inn) you've shutdown into housing for them. Then based on if they've been able to adhere to the system thus far give them financial support. Once that system shows it's working and there are a number of candidates ready to move on create more rentals that are affordable for them to move into. Use condemned or seized houses. Last but NOT least scrutinize the existing shelters and their efficacy or negative impact on the community. ie the rescue mission!!!
- Require them to receive treatment and behave appropriately to receive assistance. Hire social services staff to deal with problem makers instead of tying up police resources,
- Food library; food not bombs; shelters; community resources for help (ex: mental health services are strained right now. Can't provide therapy without therapists.)
- RPD needs to enforce rules about not standing in the medians and begging. They are going to continue being homeless if they are getting more money sitting in the medians than working a regular job.
- Provide housing in return for services. That is, hire these folks as short-term city employees (so they have a recent employment record) and provide housing as a benefit. This helps the city and it helps them.
- Systems already in place and helping those that desire assistance.
- Hire more case managers and pay them better.
- TALK TO THE HOMELESS!!!! Truely! By no means is it all but many don't want anything different. They actually don't care. Another issue is cities out of state sending criminals here on the bus since we have a bus station and rescue mission. Multiple have told me personally that they were given a bus ticket by other cities just to get the out of town (their words not mine). Crack down on panhandling and

sleeping on the sidewalks. So many people are uncomfortable to come downtown or support the city because of the massive homeless population.

- provide safe shelter
 - Provide safe parking areas for people currently living in their vehicles to park and sleep.
 - Need Many more section 8 housing that is safe!
 - Giving them a place to stay isn't quite enough, it would need to have showers and regular hygiene care as well (hair cuts specifically) even if it's just once every other month. They can't break the cycle if they continue to look homeless for job interviews and such
 - Provide people a safe and reliable place to go, rehabilitate and provide financial and medical help.
 - Buy bus tickets and send them to California.
 - It is drugs. The people you see in the median aren't homeless; they're addicts
 - We need two to three low price places. People on the verge of homelessness or that already are facing that can at least pay monthly. Weekly is too much .
 - Mutual aid programs. We, as residents of Roanoke, should all be helping each other out whenever we are able to.
 - Providing more ways to help them effectively stay off the streets, maybe incorporating a step program to help transition from being homeless into housing and jobs with stability and proof of effort
 - Create shelters using the existing homes and buildings that are vacant
 - Help them to get their ID and social security cards. They can't work if they don't have ID. Routine drug screening with getting assistance and substance abuse treatment.
 - A lot of financial help as well as knowledge and resources. Make it more accessible
 - Understand that homelessness isn't a choice. And not all homeless people are degenerate. Understand that homelessness has many drastic affects on families that go much further than just losing a home. Learn what invisible homelessness is and provide help to those people as well.
 - Instead of the city sweeping misunderstood people under the rug, we could try to understand each others plights. Create more affordable housing as well as more employee rights to be able to earn a living wage no matter where you work.
 - Ban AirBNB
 - Create more mental health services and staff available to assist homeless and at risk people because many help systems are hard to navigate or they may not have cell/internet services
 - Revamp and expand our shelter system, offer better addiction and mental health services, train our police force more effectively to stop trying to police and criminalize homeless
 - I believe a lot of the homeless in our city/county have a lot of mental health needs. That seems to be a top priority to battle issues like schizophrenia, bipolar, and addictions. My uncle being one of them. Also, from what I have heard the rules about the shelters (times to be there, who and what you can bring) seem to be unattainable to all. I know of a few young women who don't want to reach out for help in abusive situations because they feel like they would be better toughing it out with their abuser versus going to a womens shelter.
 - I don't know the answer. I'm faced with homelessness now if I can't get help because of a 41 year old debt my mother accused to social security however a lot of homeless it seems tend to want what they are going through and I don't understand that. Rent is extremely high for low income people.
 - Get them off the corners. Pan handling should be illegal. They leave trash everywhere. Get them train tickets out west.
 - Ensure TAP RAM house St John still receive funds to assist the community
 - Expand current service to homeless and assistance to those on the brink of homelessness. Offer short and long term rental assistance and housing based on need and income.
 - Stop letting Airbnb suites pop up and stop letting giant companies take over rental space. That prices out people who can't afford high rent.
 - I think there needs to be more support that doesn't have as much religious focus. I've heard the biggest issues with our main shelter is the strict rules and push of religious beliefs. I know there has to be rules in place, but maybe there can be something that's a bit more accommodating. Perhaps incentives to promote recovery as well
 - Provide mental health and substance abuse services
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- Addressing mental illness and substance abuse issues is primary. You can give a habitual drug user an apartment and they will lose it because of the same issue which made them homeless to begin with. More services are needed to address these issues. Also, find a way to STOP rural SW Virginia counties from bussing their homeless to Roanoke. A lot of Roanoke's homeless did not originate here. A third of the state is exporting their problems to our city. NOT RIGHT!!
- Get them off the street corners
- Provide food and shelter
- There are many vacant homes in Roanoke that could be used for housing..
- These are people who need homes and a chance to have access to services that prepare them to live on their own. We need to help them find jobs, education and training, while providing for basic needs such as food, housing, and health care. By helping them find a way forward, we can create a culture of care.
- The bare minimum would be to have city trash cans in the areas that homeless individuals spend their time. If there were trash cans then I feel that the community wouldn't view them as harshly as they do.
- Start with kids in school. You have to change the trajectory before the mindset is engrained and a student feels they have no other path due to the only thing they know being homelessness. Address known bodies of homeless people sleeping along the roads and under bridges.
- Remember that they are human beings who deserve human dignity. Provide lockers for belongings outside of courthouses, shelters and other places where services are received but belongings can't be brought in. Provide public toilets and public shower options.
- Provide daytime activities. Including education and help with job placement. And positive behavior training.
- Make public housing easier to apply for
- Childcare services for parents making the choice between work and day care bills.
- <https://oecdecoscope.blog/2021/12/13/finlands-zero-homeless-strategy-lessons-from-a-success-story/> Read this. If we start something similar to what Finland does, we can inspire other cities in VA and on a national level to do the same.
- Stop making ordinances that penalize homelessness.
- Don't arrest people for being homeless.
- More intakes need to be done
- Provide mental and physical health assistance and affordable housing to help from the source.
- Have programs to avoid the stigma of homelessness to help get the point across that we all go through hard times.
- There needs to be more awareness of programs. Also more outreach to the people who are homeless but do not have children. They fall through the cracks.
- Build more affordable housing. Everything being built now is luxury.
- More after school programs, not always religious as that turns some people off. More counseling services at low or no cost for those with mental health concerns
- Everything is expensive as hell and these assholes offering jobs seem to think we can survive on 12/hr. Inflation is up and so are corporate profits.
- remove them from Roanoke intersections. Being there is dangerous to them and the drivers in cars.
- Build a secular homeless shelter. It's absurd that the church is using shelter, a basic human right, as a weapon of conversion
- Affordable housing with community support spaces and shelter/food services.
- Dismantle all the codes and lines that make it impossible to build multi family housing basically anywhere. Force Rescue Mission to detach its homeless programs from its religious programs. I'm banned from there for asking for private religious time during church for my own beliefs, they blacklisted me for it.
- Ask the experts not me.
- Stop teaming up with religious groups and take charge. Stop allowing religious groups from handing out food, etc in the market square center of downtown. Set up police precincts in all four districts by using an existing empty building. Some police officers should be walking or on bicycles in the downtown area. Use an RV type vehicle as a mobile social service office in various high-need neighborhoods. Hire more city employees to handle number of people in need. Increase HAT info

signage. Require community service to obtain food assistance/housing in order to build self-esteem through work. experience. The Block by Block team is a start but needs to be in more neighborhoods.

- Job fairs, financial classes.
 - Tax the absolute hell out of every asshole who owns more than one house in this town and then house the people who need it. None of this is hard. Literally none of it. You can 100% house these people, even without taxing your friends more. It can be done.
 - Add additional staff to Coordinated Entry and have a city run low barrier shelter. Also build numerous small homes (400 to 450 square feet on vacant lots in each area of the city and have an agency run the housing program using the PSH model focusing on the housing first model with wrap around services.
 - Stop enabling them! To receive shelter, put the homeless to work. There is trash by the road and throughout our city. Having a job builds self worth. Put a drill Sargent in charge...tough love..get tough on problem houses in Neighborhoods. The drug houses are attracting the homeless to flop. Hire 50 police officers so neighbors don't have to have gunfights with no consequences for the criminals...it all goes hand and hand. We need real leadership from the top...so far too weak. Stop coddling bad behavior!
 - Start more community gardens.
 - Underlying causes such as substance abuse must be addressed first before housing can help the situation.
 - Provide more mental health services and substance abuse counseling. Figure out why landlords are increasing rent so much. I think they are doing it because they can, not because there is a legitimate reason to.
 - Drug prevention I.e. help people not use drugs or prevent drugs from being used
 - Reopen the asylums, and prosecute crimes
 - Help with bad credit. Refusal to rent if not making 3× the rent. Credit determining if you can rent a property.
 - Clean up the drug addicts on the streets. You can walk around downtown Roanoke without seeing someone strung out on drugs or drug paraphernalia on the sidewalk. I realize there isn't an easy solution to this problem and throwing them in jail isn't the answer either but something has to be done. It makes the city look bad and definitely has a negative impact on the economy of the area.
 - Find a way to replace the Rescue Mission with its evil, religiously biased, lazy-ass, neighborhood-ruining ways with a real service that doesn't demand strict adherence to their BS non-biblical standards of what a Christian is. The rescue Mission is an embarrassment to our entire city.
 - The city should look into assisting other areas with building supports for their homeless population instead of sending them to Roanoke
 - Do not allow camps in city or county
 - Shelters that are non judgmental regarding substance use and non evangelical
 - Really need to focus on getting these folks help first before the issue arises. Understand these people, when you speak to them, a lot of them like the "lifestyle". need to work with the folks.
 - Food outreach and clothing needs for the homeless
 - Enforce loitering statutes. Stop panhandling. There was a guy who was employed where I work. Constantly no-call no-showing to work. I saw him on the corner of elm and Franklin panhandling, when he was actively Employed. These people make more tax-free money doing this than working, so why work?
 - Relax rules regarding substance use during shelter stay.
 - Create a hot-line to receive information on those in need. The pan-handling should be stopped because too many are abusing this and create dangerous street situations!
 - Stop harassing them
 - Make sure they are homeless because another of panhandlers are wealthy and take peoples money. Shame. I know one individual who has apartment and still on corners because as they say "They like taking people's money"" Rediculous
 - Disallow businesses from owning/purchasing single-family dwellings.
 - reach out to the hotspots of homelessness (Church Avenue, MLK Bridge, Tents at Wasena Park/Rivers Edge and provide direct help there
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- You can set up warming stations after they leave the Ramhouse it is extremely cold.
 - The rent is way too high for this area, even as someone working full time it's difficult to manage paying for housing.
 - Stop letting homeless get bussed in and taking money from real homeless people
 - Make assistance easier to obtain for those in need
 - Repurpose some old buildings to be shelters or affordable housing. There are quite a few abandoned buildings in the downtown area that, as well as old houses, that could be used for this purpose.
 - I don't know if it is true but I have been told the rescue mission is transporting some of these people into Roanoke. While I feel this can't be true it wouldn't surprise me. So if they are put a stop to it.
 - Build places that are non religious. People don't want to have others religions forced on them just bc they're having a tough time. That makes it worse.
 - More shelters that provide services to people with drug/alcohol issues, especially families. It's unrealistic to expect homeless families to be totally sober from the jump.
 - Encourage and/or enforce landlords and slumlords to provide high quality affordable housing
 - Have shelters not be connected to religious organizations.
 - Bare with me here. I work app driver jobs. We work with health insurance companies now. I drive homeless people that are clearly not in any kind of recovery to get their methadone. When I say not in recovery it's because they're so dirty that they can't be in any kind of program. The real problem is where all the money goes. And Roanoke needs comprehensive public transportation for all the outlying employment hubs.
 - Not kick them out of whatever temporary housing that they are using at the time. That and charging a fine for not being able to afford housing.
 - I'm seeing more Elderly Homeless people or Veterans That is a big concern Alcohol Drug Mental health programs are the most important
 - Visit Austin, Portland, and other cities who are investing in creative solutions for housing the homeless.
 - Build and maintain low cost refurbished shipping container units instead of needing to construct permanent structures as temporary shelter units.
 - Pay employees that assist in these needs. Most employees take on huge responsibilities with little pay. Unfortunately a high number of are homeless population suffer from mental health and as a result fund themselves in this category.
 - More affordable housing and a better process to get them in that housing. Every case is not the same the same. There's no reason drug tests and even mental stability tests couldn't be assed to determine the type of housing they qualify for.
 - We need more programs that have to do with mental health and helping the homeless cope with taking the first steps. We also need to not allow them make village like encampments which they feel has some sort of permanence. It needs to be shown that community has their backs however rules have to be followed just as every other citizen has to.
 - Stop harassing the homeless
 - Quit giving everything for free and place some accountability on the part of people. Enforce current codes and make new ones so these little communal groups don't just pop up on the sidewalk or vacant buildings/lots
 - Ship them to other cities, just as they are shipped into Roanoke.
 - Unsure
 - Enforce the laws so homeless are not drawn to dangerous gathering spots. Discourage other localities from sending homeless to Roanoke City.
 - Free parking in downtown. Better-faster bus line for people without cars or gas money
 - Provide more assistance to those struggling with not only rental costs, but also utilities and other bills
 - Now that marijuana is legal, do what Colorado is doing with the tax money. Create housing and jobs for the homeless
 - Help the homeless navigate the issues that created their homelessness. Help them navigate employment possibilities and achieve independence.
 - Decriminalize homelessness, temporary transitional housing in currently vacant buildings and/or tiny house villages, and more permanent supportive housing for veterans and returning citizens that need ongoing structure and supports. More affordable/subsidized housing, too.
-

- Keep them off the streets where they just do drugs and steal
 - Quit letting other places bus them in here on the greyhounds
 - Tiny homes, outdoor shelters with on-site social workers/security/etc.
 - None of the above really - other than additional support services. people need the means to help themselves not wait for handouts. Enforce begging laws in the City. They make more than I do.
 - Education for the public to help dispel myths and stigma
 - permanent supportive housing programs
 - Get them off the side of the parking garages. Stricter loitering laws and enforcement. There is feces and urine everywhere in the alleyways, sidewalks, ect. Downtown is disgusting and dangerous.
 - Reduce police funding drastically and direct more funding towards social services. Listen to residents and people experiencing homelessness, both chronically and acutely. Commit to making serious changes to housing policies that protect low-income renters from predatory landlords
 - Stop bussing them in and letting them set up camps.
 - Off job applications and ways to integrate them into the community.
 - Really police the sleeping on the streets. They only police it when Gov. Youngkin visited. It's a public health issue having people sleep on streets. There are shelters at night.
 - Block out of city investors from buying up houses and turning them into rental units. Keep housing affordable in the city.
 - Money. And affordable homes.
 - Tiny houses. Look up community first village in Austin, TX. They are a great example of a master planned tiny home community for the homeless. <https://mlf.org/community-first/>
 - I'm not sure
 - Provide more support and mental health services for those dealing with addiction, which appears to be the root of a lot of the homelessness here. Additionally maybe build some apartments that people in Roanoke can afford. Everyone cant afford \$1000+ a month apartments.
 - More services provided for mental health help, substance abuse issues, and money put into educational services to help our children avoid the issues mentioned.
 - Provide more outreach to panhandlers.
 - Acknowledge that many are not in the position they are in by choice.
 - You need to do something about the scummy landlords who prey on the vulnerable people in the city. One such landlord scammed about 15 people who were living in a delapidated house on Patterson Ave. He convinced these (vulnerable and low income) people that they were not paying rent but "buying in to a housing cooperative". He took their money and didn't pay the utility bills, leaving them without any running water for weeks. The conditions they lived in were disgusting. Eventually the city Code Enforcement came, condemned the house, and kicked the tenants out. They had no place to go and no support. There should be repercussions for scamming people like this! And now that house just sits empty and falls into further disrepair. It is depressing to see all these empty, run-down houses in Roanoke. These old, empty houses also tend to attract squatters and cause other issues for neighbors. Criminals use these properties for stashing stolen property, and the blighted appearance of the neighborhood is just depressing. I wish the city would seize these assets and invest in their upkeep. Many of these buildings are huge and could be used as temporary housing for indivuals who just need a "leg up".
 - Before you assist the homeless you need to address WHY they are to start. Stop throwing on a bandaid by the time they BECOME homeless. Create or change infrastructure so they don't have to be that way in the first place. We are treating the symptoms like whack-a-mole as they pop up and not the root, actual causes.
 - Mental health is a huge issue. Counseling for drug abuse.
 - Why is this only a city of Roanoke issue? It should be a Roanoke valley issue. Why not work with Roanoke county, Salem and Vinton?
 - 1) More mental health facilities and beds. 2) financial support to use these facilities.
 - Rate property taxes based on income, more funding in rent, utility assistance
 - Give somewhere for people to stay during the day. This will allow to them clean themselves, look for jobs, and avoid causing issues with police and businesses during the day.
-

- I was homeless myself and received help from the city and I am so very grateful. My issue now is the aftermath and major mental health issues. I am too scared to even leave my apartment. I wasn't like this before. I was also robbed since I am in a bad part of town but am still very blessed.
 - Assist RAM House in locating suitable property since they have been successful in getting a \$1,000,000 donation and other donations to purchase or build. This would not cost the city but they need your support due to NIMBY issues and zoning.
 - Help them to help themselves off the drugs, seek mental health services. While a touchy subject, they may need to be urged or even forced as they may not think they need it. Housing or a shelter than can go when they are drunk or high and not just be kicked out during the day/evening to roam the streets. Have something like a mentor/buddy system that can check in on them. Be friendly, listen to their story, encourage them, treat them like a human.
 - Shelters that will provide full assistance regardless of religious belief.
 - most need mental help. Most dont want to work. There is plenty for them to do, pay them to clean the streets, or clean up parks or something, free cash just makes the problem get bigger.
 - Economic development to bring more jobs to the area.
 - Provide jobs and not hand outs.
 - Stop them from panhandling. If it's against the law then the law needs to do something about it and quit. Just driving past and acting like it ain't nothing
 - Stop sweeps and other brutal tactics that criminalize and punish people for being homeless.
 - Stop letting rental businesses raise rent.
 - More mental health services
 - Is there a way the City can determine which people are at-risk of being homeless? Do you know if other areas in the state are sending some of their homeless people to Roanoke by purchasing them a one-way ticket to the city? If so, can the city contact these locations?
 - Allow The Least of These the funds they need to serve the homeless! They do an amazing job and are in need of the city's financial support to provide shelter for our homeless neighbors. The fact that they want to offer showers should not exclude them from the needed funds. The homeless must have access to showers- that is a basic human need.
 - More staff to support efforts and outreach
 - Police protection
 - Arrest them for loitering
 - Families and Veterans are one thing. Providing services to those who just don't want to work but insist on pan handling should be the last on your list.
 - Shelters should not be affiliated with religious institutions that coerce individuals to attend church services. There should also be dignity in seeking housing assistance: a person's gender and past should not be used against them in the application process. More attention paid to the ALICE population so that they do not become unhoused.
 - Better follow through from the programs currently in place. Possibly staff increases or more well trained staff.
 - See above.
 - Get rid
 - Offer a non-abstinence shelter program for addicts. A majority of those who are sleeping on the street and ineligible for the Rescue Mission are hooked on drugs beyond their own control and this is a VERY serious issue that needs to be addressed. As much as we want them to stop, they need much more help than what the Rescue Mission can offerz
 - Have shelter options in more areas, such as Hollins, Daleville, Clearbrook.
 - Facilitate additional mental health and social work services in walking distance of the most affected people groups. For instance, an individual in SE may need services that they can only receive at Blue Ridge Behavioral Health in NW. Many individuals I've met need fewer obstacles to assistance and geographical distance is a major obstacle.
 - View those that are homeless with dignity and respect. These are people with histories and futures.
 - get the homeless away from our downtown areas, public parks, and major intersections. It makes our city look so trashy, and I do not feel safe walking around those areas past dusk.
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- Stop penalizing people for existing and blocking off areas of shelter in bad weather, but stop panhandling, they mask the true needs of the community. No more people on the medians or running into traffic.
 - Get the homeless into homes. It's simple. Then get them mental healthcare, drug rehab, and job training.
 - They have nowhere to use the bathroom. Downtown businesses need to be forced to provide people the common decency of somewhere to go to the bathroom
 - Roanoke is full of empty buildings; unused strip malls, foreclosed homes, closed motels, abandoned office buildings...Roanoke should utilize these structures and turn them into housing centers for homeless people.
 - Instead of forcing them out of areas, provide somewhere for them to go. PERIOD. Stop treating them like 2nd class citizens, see them as people!
 - Provide the unhoused with houses and education. Please see what they are doing in Boise Idaho
 - Better assist with utilities and rent Assistance and finding and lowering rent so people can afford them. Everything is so high priced it's hard to survive living alone as a single parent with one child or with four - five children. The jobs around here don't pay enough to live off of and eat off of.
 - To focus on the people who are un-homed and help them find housing. There are always going to be people who only want hand outs and don't want to follow rules. I think that mental health services, along with employment, and substance abuse needs to be at the top of the list to keep people out of emergency rooms taking up a bed for the sick people.
 - Find work for them such as picking up trash and pay them a good wage
 - Not vilify the homeless
 - Support DRI Ambassador Program and Other Outreach Programs
 - Stop cutting out benefits as soon as they start working
 - Support aging out foster youth, teens may need plan to support individual needs before turning 18, investigate CPS cases where either too little was done or when children have been unnecessarily removed or when support services could have prevented separation. Transportation needs are not being met- buses do not run often enough to be efficient, they are expensive compared to other cities, they are often in poor condition.
 - Provide counseling
 - Pay for folks to help foster homeless
 - Get more affordable housing and not look for so many stipulations on renting a house
 - There is a need for financial assistance to help those individuals at risk of homelessness to rehabilitate their homes/ trailers. People have leaking roofs, leaking windows and mold. There's a need for weatherization of homes. People need financial help to fix these problems so they can remain in their homes and not become homeless. People on disability and on fixed incomes cannot afford to fix things themselves. There's also a need for the labor to have it done.
 - The repeat offenders who are pan handling daily need to be interviewed by Social Services to see why they are pan handling and verify that they are homeless. Not all homeless are pan handlers and not all pan handlers are homeless.
 - Find safe places for them to be during the day time. Clean water, bathroom, and shelter (shade and rain). Until there is a better plan to help get them off the streets they need a safe place right now!
 - Provide housing "mentors", to help people maintain and manage their homes.
 - Have emergency funding through dss and have a mental health facility to help those on the streets. A drug program that doesn't involve religion.
 - Housing first approaches work! Stop requiring that people experiencing homelessness jump through hoops BEFORE they qualify for assistance. Do not rely on nonprofits to build and maintain shelters when the local government should be investing in more resources and services. I want my tax dollars to fund actual shelters, not religious charities like the Rescue Mission, where many don't actually want to stay.
 - Allow increased lifestyle flexibility for those using homeless services.
 - Not allow panhandling.
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- Understand why it is that homelessness continues to pervade Roanoke. Based on a few conversations I've had with the homeless, it seems that many of them travel from elsewhere to come here. Why is that?
 - 1. Create guidelines to stop/manage the flow of homeless people to Roanoke from other cities. 2. Create residential treatment facilities for those experiencing mental health and substance use disorders that render them unable to work and support themselves. 3. Enforce laws preventing sleeping in parks. 4. Create "work for housing" options for the able-bodied who need shelter--city sponsored work projects that provide housing until the individual can obtain permanent work and housing either locally or elsewhere. 5. Incentivize employers to provide temporary housing near the work site or a housing allowance as part of compensation to recruit needed workers. 6. Expand the Homelessness Assistance Team to create a comprehensive approach with other city and community agencies to actively manage the homeless population. 7. Create dedicated social workers who work exclusively with homeless clients.
 - Focus more on the mental health of the individuals experiencing homelessness. Offer more skill building tools. Put less focus on criminalizing people for being homeless.
 - Form more outreach programs to provide housing and assistance. Esp with winter coming... and police are not the answer... too threatening to this population.
 - Better public transportation and safe and inclusive mobility infrastructure (like protected bike lanes, traffic calming, wider side walks). This allows people to get to jobs, doctors appointments, and food without the additional liability of a car as well as help local businesses of Roanoke with increased foot traffic and creating safe clean spaces that everyone can and will want to use (also decreasing the stigma around alternate forms of transportation).
 - Prioritize the current housing assistance so that truly deserving/non-criminal background people have a safe place to live.
 - Create more gathering spots for them instead of having them congregate at local businesses and abandoned houses.
 - Build better public transportation and bikeable streets to allow for car independence.
 - Do NOT enable it. Clean needles are not the solution. We don't need more shelters or better shelters. We need resources to help with mental illness and substance abuse. We need to crack down on panhandling. Perhaps offer jobs (picking up litter in public areas etc) in exchange for shelter or temporary housing.
 - Create more affordable housing and support. Address the stigma around homeless, and the connection that people assume is there (substance abuse, mental health, low intelligence), along with how to actively address these factors with support if/when they are relevant.
 - Keep them Off the streets & recreational parks! I should not have to look out my window to a park with homeless people.
 - Resource assistance
 - Go around the city speak with actual homeless people with care and compassion and see what they need, how they got in this position.
 - Identify the needs of the individual and help them meet those needs. Whether it's mental health or employment opportunities
 - Provide shelter and food. More senior living.
 - As a former homeless citizen of Roanoke City, while services might be available, many homeless feel stuck. They do not feel worthy, they feel like trash. Not everyone WANTS to be stuck out on the streets. They don't know what to do, or where to go. They don't feel SUPPORT. The Rescue Mission's rules and regulations are strict. There is a lack of understanding and support for our homeless.
 - Have more shelter options for families
 - Make it easy to ask for help. Treat them like human beings. Make help easily accessible - showers, laundry, indoor/outdoor day facilities.
 - Fund more programs that provide more permanent supportive housing with low barrier access. funding the construction of ew low-income housing.
 - Day center where they can get congregate services
 - Put a stop to other cities sending their homeless here to Roanoke. Change the law for panhandling back to the way it used to be.
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- Why would putting them in a motel even be an option? The feds just took over knights inn. Coincidentally Days Inn closed the same week. The city took over the Ramada...what's next Embassy? All of the cheap motels are drug havens and sex trafficker oasis', but someone wants to use tax dollars to fuel the fire??? And just so everyone is clear, it's not a homelessness problem because of financial problems, it's laziness and addiction. There should be stipulations, sort of like a work release program. If these people need a roof over their head, they have to be sober and employed. I know this probably hurt some of your feelings but the truth hurts, right? Get a hold of drug dealers and pimps and a lot of this will clear up.
- Stop taking Grant money to bus people here. We are not a sanctuary city, nor do we want to be.
- Day shelters and more mental health providers at the ready to help meet their needs during off hours and business hours.
- In my experience with individuals and families displaced by fire, we need more non-congregate shelters to serve those who are not necessarily a good fit for them socially or medically. Frail elderly people, those with severe emotional issues, and those with compromised immune systems are vulnerable in general shelter populations.
- detox facilities. Safe spaces. More adequate medical care. More case management for housing and to help them become established individuals
- More places like Rescue Mission.
- Stop limiting funds to only Roanoke City.
- Have a place they can stay and help them find a place to live and help them with money for the first month
- I've noticed that a lot of those who are homeless either have drug problems or are mentally ill. There needs to be resources available to help combat these issues. Those who are at risk of eviction provide some type of financial empowerment as to how to manage money
- Help get them to shelters when they are on the streets and help them to stay at the shelters.
- Get the government involved to help the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
- Make sure the ones you are providing services to are from the Roanoke area and have ties here. They are on hard times and may have lost their jobs or home. If they are from outside the Roanoke area they need to go home for services, such as if they are a Danville VA resident they need to return to Danville for services.
- Do what Georgetown county SC did, go into homeless camps with police and backhoe scoop up the camp put in dump truck take to dump. Break ins and shoplifting went down in the area.
- The City should enforce the no panhandling law in mediums. It's dangerous and the people are scary. They jump out in front of cars and they threaten you if you don't give them anything.
- Provide more affordable housing so that they can afford monthly bills on their income. The waiting lists for affordable housing is years long and some of the housing that is affordable is not suitable to live in . Affordable housing needs to be monitored and inspected . I have way too many of my people live in places that should never have been rented in the first place .
- Our largest shelter is religious-based and is not monitored or held to any standards of how they treat people. We need additional smaller shelters created in this community that are run by either the City or a non-profit that will be monitored for how it supports minority populations like the LGBTQ+ community and racial disparities. We need more staff who provide housing stability support services for clients who have been homeless or at-risk to support them beyond just getting them housed.
- Understand that they are PEOPLE. Do not fine them for being outside. Provide public restrooms in parks. Provide lockers for people to keep their things. STOP CHARGING THEM FINES.
- There are not enough accessible mental health and addiction services.
- Utilize additional funds to help increase capacity of affordable housing.
- Rent control, provide affordable housing, hold landlords to higher standards.
- Cut cost taxes, rent, help make people more stable
- Help them find a place to sleep and not make them do jail time because they can't do anything anymore
- Create affordable safe housing. Tiny home communities.
- Have city officials from all departments get out of your offices and walk around downtown. I suggest you start by walking from the offices down second Street to Salem Avenue walk around well Salem

down towards the market although it's cut off at the parking lot take a look at the garage in the parking lots there where the old transportation center used to be And I would walk around the MLK bridge and look behind it underneath. There is a built-in shelf under the bridge that's where most of them hang out and store their alcohol and drug paraphernalia and there's often 12 1420 of them there in at a time never bothered by anyone I've never seen anyone from the city there, but it scares everyone who works downtown or lives in the Hancock building across the street or any of the apartments nearby , it is scaring business and residence away from downtown and the city actually. What has been cultivated over 30 years as a jewel living downtown and we did create it now being jeopardized by the out-of-control situation and I don't know if anyone from the city of their office and just walked around and have a look at it maybe take some photos That's what the city could do start there and maybe see what services are needed and I would start with getting them off the streets by whatever means possible and getting them help Perhaps some sort of day shelter is what's needed though these are alcoholics and drug addicts, so what you really need are treatment interventions, but they should not be on the streets intimidating, and I mean screaming and yelling at, downtown business patrons, and residence, threatening them on a daily basis. Please go have a look from the mayor to the city manager to every employee who it who has anything to do with us, including the committee that put the survey together surveys are only as good as the committee that puts them together, and actually goes and looks at it with their own eyes . I have been a downtown resident since 1997 and I have never seen anything like this. It is a major problem and I do know that you're trying to do something about it and I do know that the survey is a start but it doesn't even begin to ask the right questions , if you think a homeless person is going to get the survey which is sort of what it seems like because you're asking if I have ever been homeless questions about that homelessness you're crazy I'm not sure they're going to even have a phone or smart phone or access to the Internet, or even care about that, so the approach might not quite be right but I'm glad you're trying. Thank you. Awww

- I wish I knew. Arresting them for trespassing doesn't seem to help. But they are getting more bold and aggressive around their camp locations.
 - provide different ways for them to make money
 - Provide local tax incentives to landlords that make even 10% of their rentals truly affordable. Enforce more frequent rental certificates with landlords instead of the 4 year ones we have now.
 - Improve traffic safety in areas with high levels of panhandling (for both drivers and homeless population)
 - Build self-cleaning public rest rooms on the street, like they have in Japan and California. Build tiny house-on-wheels which un-housed persons can carry on their bikes.
 - 🏠 please build more senior apartments. Please.
 - Ideally building free apartments to get people off the street, like 3d printed homes or apartment communities with mental health services available. Expensive, but I hope one day it can be achieved. Surveying those already homeless without access to this survey. Increase minimum wage to a living wage, individuals should be able to work one job and make enough money to thrive, not just survive. Educating people on homelessness and how difficult it is to escape from. Put restrictions on landlords buying houses and renting them, let people own their homes.
 - Stop the Biden Administration from the continued destruction of my country and the disrespect of the Constitution
 - See what other things people need. Homeless people often suffer from substance abuse and or mental health. Start there and help them to recovery instead of shaming them
 - I really don't have a good answer. I see more and more people including younger people begging on the medians. A lot of these people are not very marketable for employment. I hate to think about where your life is at to make a cardboard sign and beg from others. Depressing
 - Get the Department of Veterans Affairs more involved to add additional support to the outstanding number of homeless veterans. A person volunteers their life for their country no matter if they've seen combat or not deserves to not have to worry about anything else in their life especially a place to live.
 - Find them jobs or ways to work for and help to get on feet
 - Give them money
 - Provide jobs
 - There might be some think-tank effort toward New-Deal style solutions, to group work, group housing, or relocation.
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- Arrest the repeat drug, and violent offenders and not just release them the next day.
 - Life skills education
 - The City should also encourage businesses to get involved in offering job training skills and increase volunteer outreach opportunities.
 - Think about the elderly that's already done their 30 years and needs help I'm in that position now I'm not getting any help
 - City Management to resign
 - Affordable rental units, City builds/approves high end rentals not affordable.
 - Partner with other groups/ministries that support homeless populations. Do not allow homeless population to ask for money at intersections
 - City council should repent of their sin and submit to the authority of God which is above all governments: civil, church, and family.
 - Get rid of slumlords
 - Temporary, portable washrooms. Like @ carillon construction site.
 - Expand the HAT team. They're barely around. Also, get these folks off the street during the day.
 - Free Education, stop illegal drug trafficking
 - I don't know, honestly
 - Follow up services after people are housed to prevent recurrence
 - Lower cost on rent
 - Work to find solutions that will benefit those suffering from homelessness and get them the help they need rather than putting laws and measures in place that punish them.
 - Enforce the law!! Stop being a sanctuary city that receives homeless and problem people from other localities.
 - Build affordable housing; build dorm room housing; provide financial literacy education; provide on the job training
 - Not make sleeping outside illegal
 - Should provide them with somewhere to live at even if it's temporary. It's better than being on the streets. Help them find a job especially if their having a hard time finding one. And help them with transportation such as; a free city bus pass so people can go back and forth to work until they save up enough money for a car. Build more affordable housing as well.
 - Stop bringing them here from other places..They already are everywhere .. Unfortunately even my street has them..
 - Rehab programs should be a priority. My perception is there isn't a housing shortage but no repercussions for those choosing not to use existing programs to clean up their lives. some of the homeless have gone on the news also explaining they can earn enough panhandling so handing money won't fix the housing problem. Enforcing loitering and panhandling violations and better drug and alcohol rehab programs should be the focus.
 - I believe services are available that are not being utilized because some individuals want the freedom to use substances and that is limited in shelters. By allowing the encampments to continue and the panhandling to go on at every street corner and intersection, we continue to make homelessness a viable option for some who continue to refuse services already available. We need to address the issue of why people choose to the streets over supports available.
 - help with the meth addiction in Virginia
 - Build tiny home communities to transition homeless off the street and out of shelters into their own living spaces while providing essential care needs like mental health, addiction recovery and employment services for them so they can move into their own apts.
 - Make housing more affordable and/or have more places available without restrictions for homelessness
 - Most of it is brought on by drug abuse, and mental health. So more community resources.
 - Be tougher on crime like drugs and theft. And bring more jobs to the area.
 - Need to get these individuals off the streets, and provide them a free clinic
 - Allot more funding and easier ways to access help.
 - Free housing
 - Designated area for them to sleep, put their belongings if they are unable to secure shelter
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- Bring back section 8 assistance to low income families. Offer better housing environments for those unable to make rent. Make landlords fix rental properties they own. Make landlords consider lower rent pricing.
 - Fix up the old run down motels that have closed and make them into housing for the homeless with strict rules
 - Get rid of them ! !
 - Job assistance, rental assistance, outreach programs
 - Roanoke needs more policing of the homeless downtown. We need to provide opportunities for them to CONTRIBUTE to the society they occupy in whatever ways possible. I see firsthand the homeless community and the cancer some pose to our community. Every few days I see new homeless joining that community. I encourage those in the community and through my work at the hospital to visit the Rescue Mission. The garage where I park downtown on Church across from the Texas Tavern, there are always vagrants loitering in there, doing drugs in the stairwells, and using it (and my alleyway on first street) as a bathroom. There is an African American man who "lives" in a doorway of a building across from Sidecar who is always taking people into the garage - to do what, I don't know. Other homeless are always buzzing around him, shady characters. Who wants to get help when you have others enabling you. They defecate in elevators and alleyways. It's a bad look for people who come to bring money INTO downtown. The city can start by offering ultimatums - get help, in a program to get clean, to get work, to get on their feet - and get them off the streets and CONTRIBUTE to the society they take from and tarnish.
 - Provide more funding to the schools
 - Low income housing
 - Substance abuse help because from what I'm seeing people spend all their money on drugs then beg and steal for everything else.
 - Provide less expensive housing
 - More affordable housing so that people are less likely to live on the edge of becoming unsheltered.
 - Spreading the good news of Jesus is important in order to show other that their life matters. It's vital that we know that Jesus died a sinners death and was killed unjustly, He was perfect, but took our sin upon Him for our sake in order to get into Heaven. He saved us and has given us new life, the homeless can see that they have purpose and are not labeled by anyone except the Lord as a child of God. My prayer is that God would bless you and the spirit of God would touch the hearts of everyone. If we believe in our heart that Jesus died on the cross, and confess with our mouth that He is Lord, we will be saved. Amen
 - Create an unused space for disconnected folks to be able to be safe for a night without being run off like a rat. A good place for assistance services to find them to get them connected.
 - There are a lot of boarded up and abandoned homes in South east roanoke the city needs to buy repairand use for affordable housing!!
 - Provide amenities for homeless people where they can shower, be safe, fed, and a mailing address so that they can get back on their feet. It may take time, but it's worth it. They just need someone to believe in them again.
 - Help the homeless with their addiction: alcohol, drugs, smoking, lack of jobs, low self esteem.
 - Do something about rent. Housing is becoming more and more unaffordable in the city, putting more people at risk of homelessness. Do something to prevent the continued expanse of "luxury" apartments or even non luxury apartments but are priced like one. Inflation on rent is skyrocketing and places that are still lower-end cost sacrifice safety
 - I think all of the above initiatives are important but I think what is really needed is more funding and awareness about rapid rehousing and long term "shelter" options like converting old hotels or motels into housing for people most at risk. Also the public sleeping ordinance is absolute garbage, you cannot find people for trying to perform life sustaining activities like sleeping. Also, we need more funding to assist people experiencing homelessness with move in fee when they are able to find housing.
 - More paid job training programs.
 - Enforcement of current laws to stop the panhandling. These people are mentally ill or drug addicted and are not the cities problem.
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- Provide training/classes for people who've never been on there own before. Help us to help ourselves, without any judgment!
 - Find a way to get panhandlers off the street corners and medians. It is a blight and it causes resentment against those doing it. It appears many panhandlers are doing quite well, which further discourages citizens from helping with real needs. Provide mental health and substance abuse help and incentives to get off the street.
 - Help them get housing educated them how to balance there lifestyle have stricter laws about pan handling looting and squatters
 - Get them out of the middle of every road, pass a ordinance making it illegal to pan handle. Its not safe for someone to stand in the middle of the road especially when they are mostly not all but mostly high or drunk
 - Better mental health help
 - Increase public housing access, section 8 properties, and other affordable housing options
 - As a case worker here in town, the issue I have seen for homelessness is not lack of shelters, but often people choose to not utilize the shelters because the shelters do not allow drugs. Most who do not utilize the shelters knowing do so because they wish to continue using substances. Dealing with substance use in my opinion is extremely important in helping with the homelessness crisis.
 - Develop affordable housing on the vacant land in Roanoke and the acquire abandoned properties to turn into affordable housing with services
 - Explore rent controlled housing, fund long term substance abuse treatment plans, interview, ask and research actual homeless people. Start there. We can't fix what we don't truly understand.
 - 1) Provide preventive services to those *at risk of* homelessness. 2) Establish secular shelters with secure storage and on-site support services. 3) Use foreclosed properties to house the homeless while they get back on their feet.
 - Open the criteria to include more under The Housing Authority and investigate slum lords. Rental pricing is too high for ppl to afford. Hold the slum lords accountable. Provide more money to RAM house.
 - Provide shelter and food and assistance in finding long term housing
 - Create jobs that pay people a viable wage to provide remain/become self sufficient.
 - Get drugs and crime off the street
 - Offer more services to help get them off the street and back in a stable living situation.
 - Rehab buildings in city mot in use and provide shelter and services and job training to get them independent and on their own.
 - Increase access to resources by developing a discounted bus ticket for homeless individuals. Homelessness usually means lack of transport.
 - Get them off the streets
 - If housed in housing a standard should be established. Conduct, personal hygiene, and care of the housing, and a code of conduct.
 - Lower the considered affordable housing price. It's truly not affordable.
 - Set up port-a-potties downtown to reduce human waste in the streets
 - Build tiny home villages. Need more affordable options. Get people the mental health care they need. Get the drug addicts in rehab. Get people more help finding jobs.
 - They should send checks to those who are at risk so they want be homeless
 - Have more ways of reaching out to people not everyone has ability to the news
 - Provide a safe environment for those who are disabled
 - Stop the drug flow in Roanoke. Help the people that are willing to work. Drug test people getting any help. Do not allow camping anywhere in Roanoke.
 - There needs to be more support to
 - Stop ignoring them!
 - More understanding of their plight. This is not everyone on the streets choice.
 - Homeless need to be forced to participate in rehabilitation programs or be arrested.
 - Don't just talk about it, do something.
 - There needs to be a cap put on rental amounts. People are going to keep getting evicted and cause more homelessness. People CANNOT afford the rent.
-

- Partner with Radford University Carilion programs to facilitate support services
 - Provide more assistance to those at risk of eviction
 - Build transitional housing, tiny village
 - Strengthen enforcement of laws that prevent panhandling on the streets to end the trend of homeless tourism
 - Lower cost of living
 - Put back the benches and electrical outlets and keep the public restrooms open
 - Provide rental vouchers
 - Put a rent rate cap on certain properties , provide more HUD properties for sale , buy old hotels/motels and use the rooms for the homeless. With a little money the city could do a whole lot but biggest two problems are availability and to many rules.
 - Day shelters for washing clothes and showers. Computer for looking work
 - Utilize empty motel like the one across from Red Lobster
 - Have early intervention programs to keep people from being homeless.
 - Help them find employment rather depend on handouts. Many places are hiring. Maybe have them be accountable to someone regarding doing the job they are hired to do, and tie any assistance to work....even if it is doing things like cleaning up trash along the roadways in exchange for assistance.
 - Enforce laws. Address access to drugs
 - Nothing.... Too costly.
 - More education and resources made available to at risk individuals or families. Grants provided to shelters and mental health facilities. More local education efforts in the school systems.
 - The city needs to attack the roots of the problem. Mental health and drug prevention services would be a big step towards ending homelessness. As well as building more affordable housing, even with a full time job in the area rent prices are so high that with minor accidents or medical problems anyone could end up homeless. A lot of people are paycheck to paycheck now.
 - Don't let them camp there are several campsites around Roanoke you need to take them to the rescue mission or some other place where they can get help and get a little structure in their lives and not just do whatever they want I say this as a former homeless person
 - Provide some sort of system to find people working under the table, getting government money, and benefits living under the same roof. With jobs out there this should not be happening. Cut off the benefits for people able to work. Quit allowing the rich and famous to build expensive housing and help the middle class and poverty level people more. Help the folks who really need it
 - Open up a house for them provide some type of educational experience and find out there needs to be independent with job training to get them back on there feet for housing
 - Get them off the streets check the empty houses that are known for the homeless to be breaking into cleaning up the city streets with the trash that is left behind
 - Make programs available to people who would normally not qualify for assistance like people who are employed but just need a hand up because they get denied and overlooked in most programs that are offered currently.
 - Provide more showers/restroom sites
 - Mental health and substance abuse support seems a good route to take
 - More affordable rent, it is going up and making me at risk of homelessness. I work but can barely afford all my bills, when rent is almost \$1000.
 - Bus them to Lynchburg
 - Stop all the pan handling and encourage people to get help in whatever program they need
 - Offer more options for housing than the Rescue Mission that aren't religion based
 - Ask the churches to step up and serve the community not just those who pay to attend their church.
 - Drug and alcohol treatment, classes on budgeting, paying bills, also getting cleaned up and ready for job interviews, how to make their own resumes'. Encourage them to try and get day employment.
 - Have multiple level programs that address the needs of individuals and families that provide mental health support, safety and build their confidence to help them get established to be hired in the community.
 - More funding for couch surfing families
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- Help the ones who want to help themselves. Assistance isn't a generation thing, there needs to be a end point. Do not allow homeless to live a lifetime off of tax payers money. Roanoke city should recognize that they have no money, they are spending money of hard working citizens. The citizens shouldn't have to foot the bill on people who do not want to help themselves. If anything, help the ones paying for the homeless.
 - Appoint someone to research what other successful cities have done for the homeless. Evaluate costs and make a proposal. Also, have communication with churches on what they could be doing.
 - Provide more mental health and substance abuse services.
 - Provide job training and direct job opportunities, and financial literacy education
 - ACTUALLY STAND UP AND HELP! I've been homeless for 3years now and still can't get any real help!
 - We just can't continue to provide financial assistance to the homeless and near homeless for housing (i.e. Section 8) without also providing regularly scheduled financial counseling and basic home economics education. Many of the people receiving this type of financial assistance are squandering the opportunity and not learning how to exist independently. There should be mandatory counseling and financial guidance/oversight of everyday expenses. We have to recognize that many of the current homeless are totally incapable of managing a traditional, everyday existence that most people take for granted.
 - Crack down on open air drug trade
 - Help people find and train for jobs, give job coaching, finance management education, supplement income and don't take away that financial help when they start to work or work full time.
 - Stop trunijg us away
 - Arrest them for vagrancy and put them in jail.
 - Don't base someone's needs on credit scores! (Yes ! This happens!)
 - Help with the homeless living day to day in the Melrose av area
 - Enact laws that prevent people from aggressively pan handling would be a start. And enforcement of people sleeping on the streets.
 - Take a very hard look at the data reported by shelters, motels, HAT Team, day shelters, local sources. I trust the annual Point In Time Survey, but little else. Almost all of these places are abusive, corrupt, and exploitative. I realize this population is composed of ex-offenders, addicts, the mentally ill, but also include the elderly, disabled, those displaced from unsafe housing, families starting over, people with debt/ medical debt and victims of identity theft. Keeping accurate records is the only way to prevent people from getting lost/trapped in the system, and spending years in "emergency shelters". The emotional abuse alone here is substantial, by those entrusted to provide care - and shelters are not functioning as nursing homes and hospitals, much less as day programs and babysitters. The homeless population deserves a degree of respect - we do not represent a direct threat to society. And I know Roanoke City and the State if Virginia care about their residents, however housed. Unfortunately, they don't see what is really going on here, and getting a deeper view is not easy. It requires creativity and a willingness to look beyond appearances.
 - Help them find and maintain employment so they can begin to take care of themselves. With the price of rent on the rise, help should be given to employed Roanoke citizens who are struggling to make rent before they become homeless.
 - Collaboration with community partners that might interact with homeless or those at risk of homelessness. I work at Virginia Western Community College and many of our students are housing insecure. Some sort of partnership would be beneficial to help students establish stable living and better educational outcomes.
 - Stop bulldozing old buildings and turn them into homeless housing with services to help people get on their feet such as mental health services, assistance in acquiring proper identification, and then job assistance.
 - Regularly check up on the homeless communities to inquire what they need in order to improve their situation. The most important need is a personal one on one communication facilitated by non-homeless individuals. This engagement should be followed up by city provided transport/temporary shelter/ability to become physically presentable. This is needed in order to provide a foundation that will 'break the cycle' of general homelessness.
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- Have people conduct interviews or surveys of the homeless to ascertain why they are homeless. When doing this the people conducting the exercise need to shelve their emotion and be level headed. Seems that some of the homeless don't want a better life.
 - We need to have some transitional housing (ie tiny shelters, permissible camping) available as an option for homeless folks to get on their feet.
 - Enforcement of panhandling in the city and make them clean up if they congregate in areas. Stop allowing more homeless in from other areas.
 - Bus them back to their home cities.
 - Start more organizations like "least of these ministries." The small non profit groups in the city beat the bushes more than all other organization in the community. I see them out everywhere helping people.
 - Provide positive reinforcement of self worth by requiring "earning" assistance. Meaning free assistance does not help the growth of self worth.
 - Educate the public that giving money to panhandlers is not helpful, if they want to help donate to a organization helping the homeless. Get them off the streets immediately.
 - Rehab facility access for free for the many homeless that are on hard drugs. Provide mental health assistance for the homeless.
 - If they were capable of thinking rationale they would freeze one night and the next day with a little help. But if they don't work for it they will not appreciate it and it will become a trash city like everywhere else they go. Bus them to california.
 - Prioritize the housing of vulnerable individuals over housing being used as investment properties.
 - Many homeless I've worked with want to work (a job) and get an inexpensive barebones place to live that's safe, on bus line, close to groceries...
 - Get them out of the city. As long you are giving them things they won't work or leave. Stop spending my tax dollars on this stuff
 - AFFORDABLE housing options are needed. Not just more housing.
 - Provide a structured program to work with homeless individuals to determine their capacity to live independently and a program of training, treatment, job opportunities and subsidies so they can successfully transition. This program must be longer than a day, week or month to be effective. Enforce laws or make laws to make living on the streets unlawful to encourage people to accept the services provided. Encourage development of affordable housing. Create shared rentals of a house or apartment that includes supervision to assist the residents. (3 bedroom house could have three unrelated renters who share the common areas)
 - Make sure that shelters are low barrier.
 - A tiny village offering case management svc , assist with obtaining and managing benefits. Some may progress to community housing with ongoing supportive services.
 - Get people off the median!
 - Give them a place to exist. Take resources to them.
 - Close the borders and help the homeless that are here. Roanoke is a destination for homeless across the country.
 - Safe and affordable housing in Roanoke doesn't exist. Rental prices here are outrageous. Not sure if some sort of tax break or incentives can be given to landlords to make available more space or make safe the place you do live in. Too many slum lords in this city are allowed
 - Build an area away from parks where they can stay together if they don't want to have a church session at the rescue mission.
 - More mental health services and employment assistance. There are always going to be some who refuse help but offering a respectful hand up would change many people's lives.
 - Just provide education for them
 - Utilize unoccupied houses to allow for additional housing
 - Rent caps, more affordable housing, increase wages
 - Discourage camping in sidewalks and alleys. It doesn't represent the community well when there's trash everywhere from their belongings.
 - Focus on the health and safety of its residents versus political woke ideologies.
-

- The best idea is return the money unused, as the city's contribute to fiscal sanity in DC. The next best idea is to use it to buy homeless persons and drugees one-way tickets to California. The third best idea is use it to sterilize indigent women.
- Provide transportation and IDs so the homeless can get steady work, train as needed
- NW Roanoke is displaying gentrification right before our eyes. Building condos by the airport that no one from the community can afford to move in. Closing all the hotels that homeless individuals could somehow afford or being placed in from local agencies for temp shelter. Where do they go now? Rescue Mission being the main homeless shelter that still displaces those in need during the daytime, without any support is unreal. Rent is unaffordable, credit is being the factor to determine eligibility for a home. But rent payments dont even report to the credit bureau. And landlords beat you out your hard work money and don't fix your home to live in effectively. But raise rent so high that every one is suffering from debt just to have a roof over their head.
- Provide rent assistance for more people to prevent homelessness earlier in their struggle
- Add more staff to the Homeless Assistance Team. Add mental health service providers to the HAT staff.
- Keep the shelters open during the day (even in the summer). Whenever the shelter closes they end up staying in the Elmwood Park Garage and other places.
- Stop allowing them to set up encampments.
- Better identify those who have benefits available to them to get them off the street
- Let them use the vacant buildings for a temporary home until the city comes up with something better.
- Cap amount of rent that landlords can charge. I know of one person who has bought up lots of apartment complexes and went up on every unit nearly \$400 per month, becoming completely unaffordable for single income households or minimum wage workers.
- stop the city government from being so greedy. get some more people involved in our government who care about the people, and not themselves. putting band aids on something isn't going to work. you need to heal the wound that broke these people, or more people will just continue to break. this isn't just a roanoke issue, but we can start here. by putting THE PEOPLE first.
- Increased mental health supports.
- Enforce the laws that we already have
- Create safe sleeping sites where homeless individuals are permitted to exist. Include tent camping, small shelters and parking spaces. Allow an organization to manage the guests.
- Provide day jobs to the unemployed
- Make landlords come down on their rent that they are charging. If not build places that people can afford.
- Tell the police to stop escalating things
- Fix up all those empty abandoned houses .
- continue - or increase - support for Rescue Mission
- Make renting affordable, All the locations downtown are \$1,000 or more
- Keep the public aware of what efforts are being taken to assist the homeless and seek to strengthen community partnerships that can help with efforts.
- Allow more temporary housing options for the short term, long-term update the zoning ordinance to allow more density in the housing market. Have the HAT staff make public statements and advise the public on issues of panhandling, particularly at intersections. (There are a lot of stories of con artists, etc. about such people)
- Build a tiny house village for those who are homeless. There are some who are not eligible for shelters due to their background.
- Classes to get them employed
- Help them get SSI, SSDI, AND SOCIAL SECURITY.
- A large problem is several of these are urban camping ,and they like it. I am a retired medic that ran in the city for several years,I met a lot of people. When things went bad, we where the people you called.
- Create more drop-in programs. There are several homeless individuals who will not engage in traditional program and/or able to live in "housing settings." There are few who simply feel more comfortable living on the streets versus a traditional setting. These drop-in programs can offer

counseling, but be accepting of individual choice. Building trust could encourage those to engage in traditional shelter programs and/or housing.

- Address mental health related problems in the community. This will provide long term results.
 - Whatever is necessary to aid them in their mental health and stability.
 - Since there is more landlord eviction now..set up a group dedicated to help the tenants, intervene earlier before the tenants become more dependent...i.e. provide \$200 a month rent assistance at a new place or 6 months to bridge a gap, rather than having a tenant fall apart financially completely.
 - Stop the pan-handling on street corners. Someone is going to get hurt, as most pan-handlers are becoming more aggressive in their approach. Someone might understand their action as an attempted car-jacking. Get rid of the tent communities over off Hersherberger near the airport and the intersection from Hersherberger to Valley View Mall.
 - Send them to California. I hate them and they my day.
 - Partner with those in the community and build units
 - Helping the homeless is unfortunately complex. People think give them money, give them a free place to stay. That can help the few that really want to get out of their situation but the majority don't want to get out of the situation. They just want the next handout so they can continue their lifestyle. Mandatory training and work programs in exchange for housing etc. would be appropriate. If they don't want to do anything for the help then the help will not work.
 - Do not let them congregate outside businesses if they are lying or sitting on the ground, or partially clothed, or with trash all around them. Gather them and take them to facilities or counseling where they will receive help. Also, please do not allow other Virginia towns, cities, and counties to bus their homeless to Roanoke shelters. This puts a burden on the Roanoke Valley and its residents.
 - Stop taking homeless people in from other cities ! It's causing issues , especially when we get the worst of them.
 - Buy them bus tickets to Richmond or literally anywhere else.
 - Stop handing out things like tents etc and do more to help provide IDs, assist with mental health, drug rehab, employment, permanent housing.
 - Provide basic life skills education, better health care
 - -Build more affordable housing -Require proof of past residency in the city/county for access to assistance/services. Too many surrounding counties drop their indigent populations off in Roanoke. - Job training/placement program (must work/live within a certain radius of Roanoke)
 - There is clearly a direct link between drug problems and homelessness. Those possessing and selling need to be arrested and prosecuted; those addicted need treatment and have to be clean before you put them into housing, especially housing they have to pay for.
 - Kick them the fuck out of town and quit accepting them from elsewhere. Fuck the homeless. They are the ones with it all figured out. And you just keep giving.
 - Provide incentives for people who are willing to work / participate in treatment
 - Make transportation to the DMV a priority. Tear down and expose the rescue mission for providing inadequate shelter during covid and for individuals who are marginalized. Increase mixed income housing.
 - Build a shelter in a part of town that actually has more positive support and does not force religion. The current mission on 4th st pushes homeless out all day and they have nowhere to go. So they sleep panhandle on the streets or hook up with drug users in the SE neighborhood. Homeless addicts need an environment free from other addicts. The City don't get that. If y'all wanna inspire homeless who are using to do better for themselves you gotta take them out of the element they can easily access their fix
 - Stop catering to the homeless and making being lazy an occupation. Being on drugs or an alcoholic are more important to some. Now I agree there are those that need help. But the majority take advantage of the system which screws those that actually need help
 - Additional BH housing is desperately needed
 - Go out and talk with them ask them what you can do to help them and then take the steps to actually help them.
 - Build affordable rental units and offer more section 8 housing...when a even a single room studio efficiency apartment is out of reach financially and units being upgraded are put out of reach of low income tenants our city will see more people sleeping under bridges.
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- Lower the rent! Open more shelters
- Create no panhandling laws and enforce
- Find something for them to do besides hang out at stores and sidewalks in SE. Help them find a job or rehab
- Provide more mental health counseling. Teach financial literacy starting in 2nd grade and every year thereafter.
- Incentive for companies that will build very low to no income housing for the homeless citizens of Roanoke. Even the so called "low income" apartment opportunities are geared to young professionals and still expensive. Build more shelters so the homeless have places to stay until the city gets housing opportunities for them.
- Make housing more affordable in the area
- Change policies and practices to incentivize developers and others to build and maintain more affordable housing units for no and very low income people. Very serious shortage of affordable housing here, and normal rental rates have skyrocketed since the pandemic.
- Definitely need more affordable housing. The jobs that most poor people have simply don't pay enough to pay these high rent prices, let alone utilities, clothes, food, etc...
- Build partial hospitalizations for the homeless to complete treatment as no one wants help people in recovery
- Arrest the vagrants and panhandlers; then, have Judges convict them of committing a crime would be a great start. The panhandlers have become aggressive and this should not be tolerated. Also, our Veterans should be a priority over someone too lazy to work.
- There is already a ton of rental housing that folks who are not homeless either can't afford or can barely afford.
- The elderly with low income and have very limited resources are very vulnerable if I lost my housing I would be up a Creek with out a paddle and most likely with out even the boat
- Not sure how to answer this. The homeless people who are determined not to stay this way have ways to get help in Roanoke already. I just wish that Roanoke would crack down on the panhandlers who are NOT homeless who stand in the median at stop signs day after day.
- Not have the shelters and entitlements in the actual city move it near the county line.
- More financial resources for those who really want the help. Rental Asst as well as Mortgage Asst. Affordable housing. I also found utility Asst was far & few between. Funding for those kinds of programs. Last winter I went w/o heat for 1 1/2 weeks while it was in the 20's.
- Designated tent cities or tiny housing communities with mandatory job training & job placement. Social workers to assist them with food assistance, rent assistance, social security etc
- I wish I had insight to share.
- Some of the people who spend their time panhandling get a check each month and obviously spend it on drugs/alcohol. Use that for a couple of weeks at a motel and then stand out panhandling. Food stamps they get are used as an exchange for the above. Many have no interest in changing what they do. A lot of these people are being enabled by the system and the people who give them money. Roanoke should spend their money on the senior population and the truly needy who are struggling with the high cost of food and housing. Some of these people get more in the way of food stamps and money than the truly needy. Some of the people standing out wanting money are obviously able to work but as long as Roanoke continues enabling them and it will continue. The city needs to see the difference in needy and simply want.
- Expand the bus lines and offer more/ better public transportation to help get citizens to/ from work so that they can earn a living wage and become self-sufficient.
- Enforcement of the no begging law
- Send the transient from other places back where they came from
- Help to break down stigmas against the homeless population as well as build trust between government/organizations/etc. and homeless population (lack of trust in/fear of those trying to assist them has shown to be a barrier for homeless getting help in other areas such as Utah). The City does not need more luxury apartments or Airbnbs. We need homes to be turned into multi-unit dwellings for rent instead of vacation rentals that limit affordable housing options.
- The problem is too much low income rental property in Roanoke. Beautiful old houses are being ruined and cut up into apartments. Roanoke has run off its middle and upper middle class. There are few nice

neighborhoods left to attract young professionals outside of downtown. This shows the focus is in the wrong place. It is time to protect neighborhoods and drive out low income rental property and slum lords. Crime is certainly following the decline in neighborhoods. With good paying jobs even in fast food available, why not help the homeless get jobs not give handouts.

- Allocate a percentage of new build and existing housing for rent stable low income housing. Give tax credits to encourage the program. Open more section 8 vouchers.
 - Work readiness assistance to include soft skills, clothes closet, transportation via bus tickets
 - Address the root causes (substance abuse, mental health disorders, criminal records etc
 - Implement programs on how to keep jobs, budget, purchase food, and properly maintain housing.
 - Make sure all areas of the city are safe with increased police presence in high crime areas
 - Maybe more programs like rent relief program that helped so but left so many out back..
 - Incentivize/make the process of getting a rental and job easier. Incentivize participating in the community in a positive way (cleaning up the streets)
 - Help by providing free health care and mental assistance to those in homeless areas and help explain benefits that could assist in living in their own feet. Try to help those in need understand how to work jobs that build careers and provide free education
 - Connect these people to non-profit services who assist in getting these homeless back into the working class. That may mean drug rehabs, skills training, child-care while they work, etc. Educate them in practical skills; the number of basic-skill job openings out there probably more-than-out-numbers the homeless. Connect them with child-care options, perhaps subsidized. Provide transportation information. Perhaps increase bus routes. For anything that costs the city money, put accountability in place. Don't give handouts. There are legitimately-homeless people who would gladly take steps to learn how to be self-sufficient if they knew where to look, and had the support of friends and family. Then there are homeless people who would rather stay homeless, keep their free time and drugs, and live in poverty with handouts, rather than to have a home, stability, and an income they could say they earned.
 - More mental health care
 - Renovate existing vacant downtown buildings into low rent apartments.
 - Assess those who need mental health services.
 - Pay social workers to frequent the public libraries to see who need assistance.
 - Require more apartments to be rent controlled so people aren't priced out of their homes. Have a daytime shelter so homeless are not wandering through the streets of downtown urinating, defecating, causing fights, etc. Shut down homeless camps. They are a breeding ground of drug use and violence. Enforce the no panhandling at medians rule. Require homeowners of vacant properties to either use them or bulldoze them so homeless aren't breaking in and vandalizing/burning them down. Have an emergency shelter that is not run by a religion so it is more inclusive to all. Right now there is only one, the Mission, and they have very strict rules that prevent people from going there. Expand HAT. They do not have enough resources or personnel to handle the rise in homeless people.
 - Food
 - I would like to see Tiny Houses, and ways to help people buy property so that they build equity. In the long run this will encourage responsibility and a way to get out of povrty
 - Panhandling -- the problem with the Call 211 for assistance is that the homeless don't have phones. Is there a physical address downtown or near the airport?
 - Affordable housing everywhere rent is almost 1,000 for a 3br ?! Create more shelters , ones where you don't have to be out for several hours
 - Provide transportation to the homeless to get to shelters!
 - Create organizations to greater involve the community in helping our members who need it. Restaurants throwing away expired goods, churches, schools, and other businesses can be incentivized to help in some way
 - Enforce the laws against panhandling and the illegal camping.
 - Develop wrap-around plans so that whatever solutions are provided to the people who find themselves homeless are sustainable over the long-term. Not a one and done, meaningful, ongoing, sustainable answers that are EASY to understand and access.
 - Buy and renovate the motels near Williamson/Orange and allow temporary and/or longer-term housing.
-

- Develop a new committee or organization to assist the homeless struggling with mental health issues or addiction. The public also needs better information on mental health, addiction, and homelessness. Also, a job center for homeless individuals with a non-shaming atmosphere! Partner with local businesses to hire individuals that need work!
- Help them with items like hygiene items, clothing, blanket etc
- Make rules, such as zero panhandling, and enforce it. Homeless should not be a profession.
- A shelter where the homeless has to work to stay there. Meaning working to maintain the up keep of the shelter.

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Which of the statements below best explain homelessness in the City of Roanoke?

- Answered: 1,384
 - Skipped: 0
- 0%10%20%30%40%50%60%70%80%90%100%
- Homelessness is a very...
- Homelessness exists, but...
- Homelessness is not a...

Housing Needs Survey_ Roanoke Residents

(0)

Please explain your previous response.

- Answered: 1080
 - Skipped: 304
- Panhandling is getting worse every year.
 - The homelessness in the city could be worse. Roanoke city does provide some assistance to homelessness people and families.
 - My brother is homeless and I visit him on the streets. I offer him a room, warm bed and food but he refuses because he likes being on his own and hanging out with his homeless friends. He knows I have rules like the Mission and he don't want to follow them. Most of the homeless feel the same way. Pity isn't helping to motivate them to do better. The City is afraid of enforcing them to get off the streets and that's only enabling them to continue to put themselves at risk of harm, or hypothermia.
 - The number of homeless has grown since the money for motel space stopped. And there appears to be minimal affordable housing available.
 - Almost every intersection in Roanoke has people panhandling. Abandoned grocery cart spread all over the area as well as garbage. Drug paraphernalia if you look. These are the symptoms of a bigger problem... Mental illness, drug abuse and lack of affordable housing,
 - People are in a desperate place needing housing and all renting apartments in Roanoke have all substantially risen rent to where people working full time struggle to pay for rent.
 - There are obviously a number of people living on the streets but even most people who are currently housed are only one missed paycheck away from having no place to go. We're living in rental units that we are struggling to afford and most of us have paid in rent significantly more than what it would have cost to simply purchase a place of our own if we didn't have trouble getting approved for mortgages.
 - STOP allowing homeless people be bused into our city from other cities when they don't have the documents to prove residency.
 - One homeless human is way too many homeless community members.
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- As a social worker in Roanoke city I have worked with many individuals who have experienced homelessness or are at risk. The rescue mission does not feel safe for them. Housing is not affordable.
 - Not everyone feels comfortable in a shelter and the homeless should not be made to feel they have to take any kind of treatment just to obtain a place to sleep. Bring back benches so they have somewhere to sit and day shelters that offer meals would be great.
 - Has city council and organizations actually talked to or invited the homeless to a sit down conversation to learn what they want, need and why they're homeless?
 - There is not a lot of help for homelessness unless you are willing to give up alcohol and drugs (while you should) it leaves a lot of people without options. This is huge with the mental health issues.
 - I am answering relatively. Compared to where my daughter lives in Baltimore, homelessness in Roanoke is moderate. I have seen some improvements to services but there are still quite a few men and women with obvious drug, mental health or alcohol problems wandering the streets at night. They are mostly not the dangerous ones who are shooting each other in the market areas downtown but the services they need go way beyond just a room to get them off the street.
 - The streets & vacant places are full of homeless people with nowhere to go. Also it's a known issue of homeless children in our schools.
 - It is a moderate issue, but if we don't get ahead of the curve, Roanoke could begin to look like other big cities. We really need to help the homeless make the right choices. 1.) Save your money 2.) Get treatment. We also need a way to incentivize them to do this. If you keep going to treatment, you will get your disability income.
 - I'm not homeless currently but may be soon due to lack of affordable housing. Many many people are homeless due to many issues. Talk with TLOT they see it daily. Or take a drive around town
 - Homelessness has always been a problem in Roanoke but temporary stay hotels allowed most people to work and provide themselves with temporary shelter. Since destroying these hotels, there are less places for people to stay forcing them onto the street. It's ten times harder to maintain employment and stay safe when living on the street or in a vehicle than by staying in a hotel.
 - Hobos very seriously leave trash and make hobo camps and panhandle and do drugs in public
 - I work in the substance use treatment field. Unfortunately there is a lot of overlap with homelessness and it is heartbreaking even in my personal life to witness people going through this and being treated as subhuman by so many citizens who simply don't understand the nature and trajectory of homelessness. It's a problem that needs to be addressed with a person-centered approach that preserves each individual's dignity. Anything less is utterly shameful.
 - I agree that homelessness exists within Roanoke. Still, my experience living in Washington, D.C., and Florida would suggest Roanoke's homeless issue is a moderate one fueled by something much deeper, like mental health, substance abuse, unemployment, or a combination of the three.
 - Some people struggle with paying rent, which has become unaffordable.
 - There has been a noticeable uptick in the presence of the homeless population within the City of Roanoke.
 - I see it everywhere, and no city should ever say that their homeless population isn't an important issue no matter how many are homeless.
 - Safety is a concern. Every day on walk to work I'm harassed by homeless.
 - The other night I drove into Vinton, there were 20-25 ppl gathered on the sidewalk with their shopping carts; There is someone on every street corner/intersection begging for money
 - Roanoke City & County Public Schools already have documented the scope and impact of homelessness and housing insecurity on their student populations. Who can study (thereby bring performance that dropped due to the pandemic) if they sleep on a different couch each night? This impacts a generation of students and has the potential to hamstring Roanoke City's ability to meet youth's needs and eventually train and employ them in our local economy. Beyond that, housing stability sets folks up to do things like pursue employment (I'm not a gambler, but I'd bet dinner you can't find a job application that doesn't ask you to list your address), pursue and maintain recovery from substance-use disorders, maintain a treatment plan for other mental health disorders, engage with their community by voting, you name it! Everybody needs a safe place to land and lay their head at the end of the day.
 - Number of visible vagrants has risen over the last few years leading to more trash and human waste in public areas.
 - N/A
-

- we spend too much time waiting in line for showers, food and walking around that could be spent on job search. it's exhausting even to younger people
 - there are more and more homeless ppl in the shelters as well as on the streets
 - no answer given
 - I work with the homeless population daily
 - Homeless population is overwhelming and growing everyday
 - The number of homeless are increasing. They leave trash where they are and It will be hard to attract new businesses if they first thing they see when arriving at airport is the mess created in that area (trash everywhere on side of street) Makes city look really bad.
 - Homelessness is a serious issue. I collaborate with LOT, RAM, CITY, ETC
 - Crime due to theft of property to sell to support drugs or alcohol use. Increase in car jackings.
 - Increase visibility to people sleeping in woods etc
 - I've been homeless in Toanoke city and my own son and wife and 2 granddaughters are homeless now and I've known and still know many more that have been and still are homeless and it's just awful
 - As a home health nurse I see it more every day, and I see all the people facing homelessness.
 - people begging on street corners is worse than ever and I have lived in Roanoke 61 years
 - 50 to 100 out of 100,000 is not a problem. Period. At most, it is an excuse to justify the jobs of grant and public funding seekers.
 - Homelessness is a cultural/society based issue.
 - people who have lost loved ones in their lives need to know they have a warm place to live and it is a safe environment
 - I see homeless people everywhere in the city. Never did I ever think I would be homeless but I am. I see homelessness in a different way now.
 - too many people, not enough resources
 - they are everywhere
 - homelessness is everywhere in the city
 - Lack of true living wages creates homelessness. Millionaires became billionaires because of the lack of living wages. Nos, they are about to become trillionaires. Enough with their greed.
 - You see homeless people everywhere
 - Homelessness is a real problem in Roanoke
 - Because if the inflation In rent prices, and the lack of wages... homelessness is at an all time high.
 - The lack of affordable housing in the area is greatly stressing all our resources including mental health providers, hospitals, shelters, etc. low income jobs no longer afford individuals the ability to house themselves as no affordable housing is available. Homeless are told to go to hospital and mental health centers for housing which we can no longer assist with locating as their is none and so the only recourse is to return them to the streets but they still return and make others who really need the services at risk as they utilize a bed in the hopes of a service that cannot be provided.
 - There aren't enough shelter options and supportive housing available so there are many who are forced to sleep in the streets.
 - not enough places to go
 - more homeless everyday
 - the drug addicts are an issue
 - people living on streets
 - I've done that type of work in the past
 - homeless all over city
 - shelters are full
 - the homeless continue to grow
 - look around
 - too many homeless living on the streets
 - need day shelters that are warm- need area to setup tents to stay dry in bad weather - restrooms/showers - we are forgotten
 - jobs don't pay enough
 - many people are homeless
 - we have nowhere to go and no way to get there
-

- there are more people homeless than housing available
- checking on people will help
- some many people are homeless
- its a major issue
- homeless individuals are growing
- 5 months pregnant - worry for my safety
- there are more homeless in our area than I have ever seen
- they are full
- there are homeless people all over the city
- seriously
- I'm homeless
- nowhere to go during the day - stop splitting up families
- to many homeless
- it takes months to get help- turn around time needs to be quicker
- I support organizations who work to alleviate temporary homelessness (or "houseless"). I have personally been very close to homelessness in my past, as a single working parent, and a lack of affordable housing. I have supported friends who have been on the verge of houselessness due to job loss or illness, and lack of decent affordable housing. In recent years. I also have witnessed the serious issue in Portland OR, and a growing issue in nearby Asheville NC, through my family visits to both cities. It's a complex issue that requires not one solution, but many. There are chronic homeless; then, there are singles and families who are on the edge of homelessness. Roanoke is a caring city with a Council that continues to look at this complex moderate issue for solutions, before it migrates from moderate to "serious." Roanoke's housing costs are moderate, but most of us who rent have received not only increases in rent, but also increases in utility bills, food, and gasoline in the past year.
- sleep on streets
- sleeping in streets children need safe place
- look
- look around
- everyone needs a place to live
- mental health is a need meth users are out of control
- homelessness is very serious
- because there are a lot of homeless
- very serious
- people are homeless due to lack of affordable housing, Roanoke keeps remodeling buildings for the wealthy and leave the little people who keep the city going
- walk drive around city the homeless are everywhere
- rat inside my house mice
- a lot of people choice to be here
- there are lots of people no-one understands the problem except the people out there and the ones helping them
- shelter is almost full
- there are many people sleeping on the streets
- Safe, affordable shelter is a human right. No person should suffer the indignity, pain, anxiety and trauma of not having a safe and comfortable place to stay.
- Coming from Oregon I feel like the unsheltered (strength based term) is an issue an Roanoke but not to the extent that it is in the west, for example you do not see camping tents in alongside of grocery stores or highway and they are not as aggressive, generally keeping to themselves.
- I volunteer and see this problem everyday.
- Homelessness is a very serious issue to the members of the community and not feeling safe due to homeless people approaching people out on the street or at stores asking for money. Also, it is a serious issue because of the trash and drug paraphernalia that can carry bacteria and disease. The homeless tend to utilize emergency departments excessively in the extreme cold and extreme hot months to get out of the weather which is a waste of resources for the hospitals in the area. It affects EVERYONE in the community. With the rapid rate of inflation rent is becoming too expensive for even the lower working

class, much less those that are homeless that are seeking shelter to get back on their feet. People that live on fixed income are struggling as the price of rent is DOUBLING and their social security checks only increase enough to cover the increase of the Medicare premium.

- It doesn't matter where you live, Every neighborhood has an issue! Homeless people with signs asking for money have spread across the City and County. Areas of camping are now visible from the street since leaves have begun to fall. Without an effective end to panhandling and support for shelters, it will continue to increase.
- We do not live in a climate that supports homelessness, and the homeless are not protected in this city. Everyone deserves safe, stable shelter.
- I frequently see people living on the streets, greenways, in parks, in woods, etc.
- Rents continue to rise but salaries do not.
- The homeless is a problem in our community but we also have issues such as poverty and lack of skill sets to meet the demands of our job market.
- Working in public safety, I believe the underlying causes for homelessness are more dire. There is housing available in Roanoke, but if you are suffering from mental illness and/or addiction, your priority is not going to be finding a home. Our resources should be concentrated toward the causes and not the result of these problems.
- There is so much crime from the homeless population including drugs, theft, trespassing, etc. I do not want to live in the city because of it its awful and such a bad look for the city. I don't want my kids playing outside when I have to worry about all the homeless people in my yard and all the drugs/violence here.
- Homelessness in Roanoke is an issue, but it's not as serious as bigger cities experience it. Any homelessness is a sad situation, but we can do more, as a City, to lend a hand to those in need by providing resources, not handouts. Often, handouts aren't used to get on their feet, it's used for cigarettes, alcohol or drugs.
- Homelessness is an increasing issue in the Roanoke Valley area. We are the central place where other localities send people for help, as they think we are the city with the most resources. With the increasing price of housing, food, electricity, etc. we are going to see an increase in our homeless population, especially amount our most vulnerable populations who receive SSI and SSDI income.
- It reflects a series of overlapping and interconnected issues such as lack of mental health service, luck of addiction services, and more generally reflects that stat of the community's psychosocial wellbeing. Where housing is prioritized for its value as a market commodity instead of its value in providing security, stability, and social cohesion, that society has prioritized the aesthetics over function. What good is the most beautiful and expensive boat if it cannot float?
- Homelessness is a result of decisions made, and should not have to effect the city as a whole. I for one wish we would not be so welcoming and accommodating as I am actually jealous of the freedom it brings and think there is a good portion doing just fine off of our handouts with no desire to "better" their own situation. Criminalize the givers to panhandling as well S that is why it is so prevalent in our town.
- Perhaps the homeless issue is just more widely publicized and it isn't actually any worse than it has been, but it is still an issue. Roanoke is a friendly city that's grown into a desirable one in which to live. But we need to also can't simply develop for those who have and forget those who have not.
- Homelessness affects individuals' ability to work ,maintain mental health and in turn burdens already overwhelmed human service systems/organizations.
- I have lived and worked downtown for many years. I've seen first-hand how serious homelessness is in our area. I've watched individuals make their hike with their belongings in a bag back and forth from the RAM house to shelter daily. I watch people wander aimlessly around the market yelling, sleeping in business areas, defecating on sidewalks in broad daylight, and pan-handling for money at just about every single intersection. Most, but not all, of these individuals are sick, experiencing serious mental health issues, and substance abuse issues. Our city needs free and easily accessible mental health and substance abuse services within our community. I lost my sister last year. Jail was the only place she could get sober. As soon as she got out, she became homeless and hopeless, still struggling with addiction. She didn't have the support she needed and deserved. She overdosed on Fentanyl, a drug wreaking havoc on our community. Our police force doesn't have "the resources or staff" to even attempt to fix this issue or look further into it. My sister became just another statistic. Furthermore, I can say just about ANYONE these days is at risk for homelessness. Most are a paycheck away from it. There are various contributing factors to homelessness other than illness - which includes but is not limited to, low-

income jobs, financial burdens, increased rent prices, and the lack of available/affordable/clean/safe housing. In 2016, I paid \$710 (with utilities included) for a brand new 1 Bedroom apt (which has since been converted to all airbnb units, but hey, let's talk about affordable and available housing in our City, right?). I now pay \$1,150 for a 2 bedroom apt (no utilities included) as a last resort, living paycheck to paycheck. Individuals working full-time jobs and/or multiple jobs should be able to easily afford a home or apartment on their own without having to seek assistance from friends, family, and the government. It's a BASIC necessity.

- People are being evicted from their homes because they cannot afford rent. They cannot find anywhere to move to. We will soon see children and families on the street.
 - The number of homeless folks occupying downtown and the street corners has increased since COVID. There is a safety concern for this population due to winter weather approaching and an overtaking of resources in medical and mental health facilities, these folks are not getting much assistance.
 - With the RRP ending, I expect a lot of tenants (if not already) to become homeless or start hunting for housing that is not currently available or affordable if available.
 - I'm a runner and I see the encampments in several areas along the greenway and previously in downtown Roanoke. Then put by the airport. Simply forcing the unhoused from location to location isn't helping. It's going to be winter. There has to be a safe and warm place for people to seek shelter.
 - Many people are struggling. My sister is currently living at a hotel and there are many families living in hotels or their cars or the street. It's terribly sad.
 - Homelessness is always a serious issue, even if it's just one person experiencing it. Coming to this area from a larger metro area, I realized that even though there were fewer people experiencing homelessness, it was no less painful for each person in that situation. As a community, we have an obligation to help those who are suffering. Their success means our whole community benefits.
 - You can't go anywhere in the City without seeing the homeless, without them begging on street corners, parking lots, or on downtown streets. It's open and obvious.
 - Not addressing it causes many other problems.
 - Anyone who doesn't know that people without homes in Roanoke need help isn't paying attention
 - Each day I see more and more homeless out and about around the area. I am a former downtown resident and there was constantly human waste all over and tons of homeless everywhere. I think we need more support for these individuals.
 - It's hard to find information on where to go. Then there a long wait to find and get a place to live.
 - It's an issue and a visible one. If you take a drive throughout the city limits on any given day, it is present and prevalent.
 - It is steadily growing.
 - The streets are full of the homeless lying and standing around.
 - We don't have enough beds, services in Roanoke amidst a rapidly growing number of homeless people.
 - The number for people that is currently homeless in Roanoke.
 - there are many homeless people around the city that need assistance.
 - The poor will always be with us and we will never completely eliminate this problem. Helping the homeless is more than housing
 - Homelessness is on the rise, not just in Roanoke, but nationally. When one homeless person becomes displaced and needs medical care that is not met, they grow sicker till finally no one can ignore how sick they are. At that point their care cost 100 x more, and their own mortify and morbidity greatly increases.
 - There are over 300 homeless and more that have housing but are at or close to poverty levels that may put them in a homeless situation quickly.
 - Because I'm starting to see more of them in the area and the trash and they're leaving behind. Especially in areas that's not a good look to tourist like near the airport and such.
 - data support this statement
 - Homelessness is down more than 50% from 2011/2012 levels. Much has been done to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness and there is a strong safety net of providers. There are some well-meaning groups, such as TLOT that are creating a false sense of security for unsheltered individuals which is keeping them in unsafe environments and discouraging them from taking advantage of available resources to help them move to stability and wellness.
 - this is VERY Serious as ALL Product prices (food, clothing, shelter) are going up.
-

- Haven't seen more recently than previously - appears to be a steady problem
- While I believe the population of homeless may be a small number, it is certainly a strain on resources, (paying to clean up camps, disposal of needles, public safety responses, etc). If we could give them opportunity and or options for housing, I think the problem could be reduced. In recent meetings, I am hearing that several members within the homeless population have been causing issues for businesses and parks. This could create problems for economic development and tourism.
- It is hard for a single income earner to afford a clean, safe apartment. To rent a 1 bedroom apartment is not realistically affordable if you are making minimum wage.
- Anyone spending time in Roanoke in recent years has seen the encampments, ill folks downtown, etc. They are people. They don't deserve to live that way
- I have noticed, recently, more homeless hanging out at convenience stores, libraries, and in apartment complex sleeping in a corner. I believe we need help with reintroduction back into the community .
- I am probably not fully aware of how many homeless individuals truly exist in Roanoke. Only those I see in my path of travel.
- They are everywhere. I feel unsafe coming downtown. They leave bags outside. They are sleeping outside. They look like they need a shower and a hot meal. I wish they had a support person to go to for help. Some can't read or write and need help with medications and need training on how to get a job. (Resume and interview skills.)
- There seems to be an ever increasing unhoused population in our city .
- People would be baffled at the real number of homelessness. The number of young people and older.
- It's definitely gotten worse since I moved downtown - it's dangerous the amount of drug use, public urination and defecation that happens on our city streets
- A major part of the homelessness problem in the city is due to the substance abuse issues in our city. We have many resources available for the city residents but many do not want help with their substance abuse. Until they are ready to get the help then need, some people decide to live on the streets to avoid addressing the problem within themselves and haven't hit their rock bottom. However, on the other hand.. rental units are also becoming too expensive and many are unable to afford their homes. We need more affordable rental units and not more high rise, luxurious apartments.. like the ones we are getting off of Hershberger Road.
- We have gone from, you see a person experiencing homelessness every now and then to now you see people experiencing homelessness everywhere, at every intersection asking for help, on vacant lots and hillsides, etc.
- There are very few streets you can walk on without passing a homeless person. Some areas are so bad I feel unsafe walking to my car alone.
- Increased homelessness is exacerbated by increase in housing pricing, rental pricing, and lack of housing stock in area.
- There are limited options for those experiencing homelessness. In addition, communal living is difficult for those with a history of trauma or MH issues. I have observed an increase of those camping in certain areas to avoid emergency shelter(s) and an increase in "pan handling." In addition, I don't think criminalizing homelessness or those sleeping on the street is the answer or solution to the root problem of homelessness either. Moving them from the streets of downtown only pushes them elsewhere. However, they are still homeless. Being out of sight doesn't mean the problem doesn't exist.
- Increase in numbers, families, people with pets and folks who get low income SSI and are expected to stay housed and fed may be more likely to live outside or in unstable housing situations
- We are seeing more individuals outside. There is a lack of affordable housing. There is also concerns with increase use of Substances.
- Roanoke streets are filled with homeless especially IN SE
- I see many people panhandling throughout the city on a daily basis. I have served at least a handful of parents each year that are struggling to afford housing or have been evicted from their home due to lack of financial assistance. I have many other coworkers working with the homeless population that describe their issues with mental health and substance abuse.
- Fellow citizens are suffering without a way out. Any number is too much.
- Homelessness is a very serious issue for a multitude of reasons. It is a serious issue for the overall safety and wellbeing of community members, and risks health. Homelessness exasperates other serious issues in the community, such as mental health and addiction struggles. Homelessness can be difficult to

overcome. Some homeless individuals conduct themselves in a way which negatively impacts the view of other homeless individuals. Certain activities such as begging should be discouraged/not allowed as there are programs available for help.

- The pan handling and aggressiveness is frightening.
 - Because of the drug use and crime rate many people are not housing secure and there are not enough resources for those who have been or are in treatment to have stable living.
 - There are many people who have not grown up with the appropriate care and have traumatic experiences which they self treat with substances. This causes a cycle of burnt bridges and homelessness. They are living along the rivers and streams, in the woods, and wherever they can hide.
 - As the mental health docket coordinator what I am finding is more homeless and schizophrenic clients sent from other communities with no financial assistance sent from the community. They expect Roanoke to foot the bill.
 - As someone who lives in Roanoke city and works directly as a street outreach worker with the homeless, I see many people struggle every day. These people are kind, caring people who hit a rough patch in the road, yet little help is present for them due to limited funding and lack of housing. Waitlists are upwards of one to two years for many properties. Many of my clients are unable to afford housing, even when they receive an income. People do not have a strong understanding of what services that there are for the homeless. There are staffing shortages and limited resources to aid those who are homeless. I witness elderly and disabled individuals who live outside who could qualify for assistance, but there is no housing for them because there is no affordable housing other than HUD properties, all of which still have very long waitlists.
 - We have a fair number of homeless, however, I see that there is a lot being done to provide services to them (shelters, health services, Ambassador program, etc.). If they weren't being attended to, I would consider it a serious issue. This year's PIT report shared that the number of homeless in the region has declined. While I do not necessarily think this is true from what I have heard anecdotally, it is reassuring that this number hasn't skyrocketed since the begin of the pandemic.
 - Homelessness is a concern, and now is the time to intervene before it becomes a significant issue within the city.
 - I am concerned that there are people in the community who are living unsheltered. It also unfortunately could give the wrong impression to visitors; the reality is that Roanoke is a helpful city who cares in my view, but people on the street makes it look the opposite.
 - Homelessness is an incredible issue in the city. I currently work with the population and have done so for the last 2 years, of which I have witnessed the issue become substantially worse in that time; especially with the most recent rent hikes, which have actually affected myself and my family. If we are struggling--a two income household with no children--then others are definitely struggling as well.
 - Homelessness has spiked in recent years. Individuals from other areas in Virginia are sent to Roanoke due to lack of shelter in their communities, therefore increasing our homeless population. The pandemic and increase of rent have also added to the issue.
 - There are people standing and living in woods and on peopled private property daily. The police do nothing to get them off the streets and stop the drug use, and then there are no places to help the ones that are truly seeking the help to get off the streets and stay off. Stop enabling the ones who just want drugs and taking up time for a place to sleep to go back out and repeat the habits. Use the sources for those that ae really wanting that help and are standing outside with no beds due to the ones that are abusing it and dont want the help
 - They are everywhere downtown, and effect the current daily life of downtown.
 - Beggars at every intersection. People sleeping downtown on the sidewalks during the middle of the day.
 - I work in mental health and many of my clients are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.
 - How far can we keep pushing folks out of the downtown area.
 - Homelessness is on an astronomical rise in roanoke. For a few reasons 1) substance abuse especial dope. People generally turn to using drugs because they have tried and failed in one or more aspects of their lives. 2) lack of resources and help for people that are borderline homeless. Their is no help especially for individuals that don't have children, and below 65. 3) roanoke city has just brushed off these issues. Acting like they will just go away or putting them in jail. Either way that cost more money than finding a solution to the problem at hand.
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- Homelessness is a major issue in the city as we lack resources for it. We need easier resources as some housing resources need clients to reach a "certain criteria" for homelessness.
- Individuals are scattered throughout the city of Roanoke asking for resources and setting up makeshift areas to live.
- We don't have clusters of tent cities but know we indeed have people with significant needs
- I'm left enough to call them 'unhoused' instead of homeless, but the unhoused scare me. I've already advised an older family member of moving to a downtown apartment because of the aggressive behavior found there. And I was recently out near the airport, and frankly, that tent city is a disgrace.
- There are a lot of homeless people with Roanoke. Most are harmless. Unfortunately they seem to not be welcome in Roanoke. They are not allowed downtown and they have no place to go, if they do not want to be in a shelter. They are at high risk
- No one should be without a place
- I've lived in Roanoke 8 years and the amount of homeless people has doubled yet resources seem to remain the same.
- I expect the issue to increase as the economic situation and increasing rental prices to increase, but it's already a serious issue
- It's bad and getting worse with the closing of Ramada, Days Inn, and Knights Inn
- Tent cities, panhandling
- I was almost homeless.
- The amount of people homeless or pretending to be taking turns on corners for money has become a serious hazard.
- Homeless "cities" are popping up all over Roanoke, including church picnic shelters and wooded areas. Mostly they are eyesores.
- Homelessness has only grown in the last few months and it is apparent by what you see and smell throughout the city. Shelters close (but not too close) to the city should be well funded.
- City officials have paid very little attention and very little effort to address the issue at hand. Bob Cowell needs to visit their locations and talk with them.
- Something many of us fear and my heart goes out to those not housed.
- Homelessness has increased significantly; however, when anyone does not have a safe place to lay their head at night - the problem is serious.
- Homelessness has always been an issue but is not only worse since the beginning of the pandemic, but particularly problematic for the unsheltered homeless population.
- To the person experiencing it, it is serious. But, comparatively, Roanoke has fewer people experiencing homelessness than a lot of other places, and the issue is not going unaddressed.
- I pass by Orange and Williamson intersection daily where homeless gather and beg
- Affordable housing and jobs are needed
- I do not see large groups of homelessness in the downtown area. I am not sure how much homelessness is in places I do not see.
- It is serious and seems to have increased since I moved here 14 years ago. It is definitely more visible and is definitely moving out of downtown and into neighborhoods, shopping centers, and greenways. However, much of what is seen is drug addiction and panhandling to support drug and alcohol addiction.
- Homelessness is broader than just living on the streets. Sleeping in car, couch Sleeping, living a period of time in a hotel/motel. There are many who are living in deplorable conditions with no options.
- I don't go downtown so I'm not aware of it.
- Due to homeless individuals being bussed into the city, as well as it being a refugee city and already highly impoverished, there aren't even enough places to live for all the people who technically live here.
- It's prevalent and growing.
- Daily I see homeless wandering down town, sleeping in doorways of apartments, some even making disgusting comments as woman walk by. I don't feel safe walk alone ever.
- The number of homeless on the streets are increasing. As we continue towards a recession it will get worse
- Rent in a decent neighborhood is too high
- I have been homeless for 4 years at one point and some of these people don't want any kind of help they just want drugs and or alcohol by begging on every single corner that has a major intersection the

city should ENFORCE THE PANHANDLE LAW AND LOCK THEM UP IN A TREATMENT CENTER OF SOME SORT SO THEY Cn back on track a. W a productive member of society I went I to a mental health facility and in heled me to become independent and productive member of society

- It is abundantly clear that Roanoke is a draw to human services and shelter from areas in far southeast Virginia and elsewhere, and the city does not have the coordinated capacity to meet the needs .
 - I work at the Roanoke Rescue Mission and the needs for homelessness is climbing drastically everyday
 - I don't think people realize that it is not only Roanoke City residents that are homeless, but the outlying counties homeless population often "land" in Roanoke due to the services that are available.
 - The Rescue Mission had a total of 195 guests last night--that's 0.2% of the population of Roanoke. This number isn't enormous, but we still have a duty to help the 300-ish homeless people of Roanoke reach the fulness of adult prosperity and maturity--not to mention safety.
 - Homelessness is becoming a problem. Not only is it being noticed, but it's also getting felt by families who are on the verge of becoming homeless as well.. With the rent hikes and credit checks and "must-haves" to move in, people dont even have what it takes to move in, yet alone maintain the household.
 - unsafe areas theft street sleeping panhandling
 - Homelessness is increases because of bad government policies that is causing rampant inflation and high energy prices.
 - The "will" to not be homeless needs to be improved while not dismissing the current needs of the homeless.
 - I have lived in this city for a very long time and never seen so many homeless hanging out in so many areas. I have also seen reports of disturbing behavior like defecating in view of public highways which obviously is going to drag down views of our city. Who is going to want to visit here once witnessing that behavior. I know homeless need help but they also need to moderate their behavior as that is unacceptable. Maybe city needs to install porta pottys and make sure homeless have access to facilities for bathroom duties and cleaning up.
 - To be more specific, the homelessness of homeless individuals and groups who *do not seem to want assistance* is a serious issue.
 - Numbers are increasing at them rescue mission where I am employed.
 - The rescue mission is near capacity with the homeless
 - There are those that are causing trouble and recruiting others that are made to be on the streets. Also, our streets are littered with homeless and addicts being nasty, taking drugs, etc in public and don't care who sees in.
 - I have worked with those in homelessness for the past 8 years in Roanoke City. My experience and recent observations personally, through our organization and data reports shows evidence of increase rates of homelessness on the other side of the pandemic. The housing costs and basic cost of living needs do not match pay rates for those able to work. Those receiving SS assistance/benefits do not receive enough to live on. The Section 8 wait list continues to be a long and arduous process. Those looking for housing on tight budgets, cannot afford \$50+ application fees for apartment complexes that require them. Some assistance is available for these and deposits, however not all who are in need qualify.
 - There are more people on the streets now then ever, these people have lost all hope and need the help of there community. The landlord of some of these people should be able to get help so these can stay in there HOMES.
 - Over the pandemic the rate of visible homelessness and panhandling has increased exponentially. I believe that emergency shelters should be more accessible and have more options for sheltering the homeless community. Perhaps further resources for the emergency shelters in the area to refer their guests/clients to resources/long term treatment/mental health support/group homes etc would be vital to ending the cycle of homelessness.
 - People are setting up camps, have no where to go, sleeping under bridges and around building and allies downtown.
 - Housing has gotten ridiculously expensive, people on fixed incomes have no housing. The "under-employed" cannot afford housing at their current rates either.
 - Our homeless population is growing
 - Working at the Rescue Mission, I see homelessness and the need for housing on a first hand basis
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- I work at a homeless shelter. Some people are homeless but refuse to come inside to stay because they aren't allowed to drink or get high inside our facility. They sleep under bridges with their friends and use substances. There are homeless people standing on sidewalks and at the median by stoplights begging for money. Most say they are homeless, but the money they receive from this, does not go towards housing. It goes towards illegal activities and alcohol. Often times citizens are harassed by the homeless while sitting in their cars. Many of the homeless do not want to work. Maybe they don't have job skills. Regardless, it's more than a housing issue. It's a dependency issue as well, and until we can target the underlying issues, our homeless population is going to continue to rise.
 - Unsafe for the homeless, unsanitary for all residents / visitors, unsightly for Roanoke reputation and appeal as travel destination and economic impacts of that
 - We have a homeless issue, but the root causes are the more acute issues - i.e. Mental Health and Substance abuse. Leave those unchecked and we have no chance.
 - Due to the economy, the homelessness issue is turning out to be a serious one.
 - They are everywhere and are intruding on safe communities making them less safe. They're impacting business owners, especially downtown. We want our downtown back!
 - There are increasing numbers of vagrants- I see them doing hard drugs, committing crime, littering, and spreading disease. They need to be stopped- I'm not letting Roanoke become like California
 - I have many clients that are living in hotels or staying with friends and family.
 - The prices of apartments in the area have tripled for most areas especially areas that are somewhat considered safer parts of Roanoke, leaving people like myself (single female living month to month in a rental apartment, working 2 jobs and worried the rent will be raised again soon) very worried about the landlords bumping up rent and not being able to afford a safe space else where. I don't want to move away from Roanoke but smaller cities outside of Roanoke with a longer commute to work are looking a lot more appealing the more crime and poverty goes up.
 - Large number of homeless people seen and known in Roanoke. An increase in panhandlers and people at stores asking for money or food.
 - I see homeless people and begging all over the city at all times of day. They are constantly begging in the medians as well.
 - While serious, it is less so than some cities. So many close to homeless create a substantial risk for families and the community. Services need to be more easily accessible.
 - There are people just about on every corner in Roanoke city.
 - I see them begging everywhere now
 - I am not sure how many people are actually homeless/housing insecure...or if it's more substance abuse or mental health issues.
 - Homeless individuals have mental health issues
 - I work in southeast and see it getting worse and worse. Setting up camps by the streets, sleeping on the curb, panhandling - it's out of control.
 - Lack of affordable housing and mental illness have been what I have witnessed as the root of rampant homelessness in this area and others
 - Should be self-explanatory but sure; we have many people who are homeless through no fault of their own, they need greater, non-police related assistance especially with the growing population.
 - Homelessness IS a huge issue in Roanoke. There are multiple camps in the city, and someone on most corners, begging for money.
 - I work in SE Roanoke. The problems from homelessness had increased 100% in the past 4 years. I see it everyday. I work for a non profit that is trying to offer assistance but housing is too expensive and unacceptable living conditions.
 - It is a very serious matter but the city needs to do something rather than putting in money in construction work.
 - I feel that we just keep moving the homeless from place to place. Let's find a solution, not move the problem.
 - All you need to do is drive around the city or set in a parking lot in some areas and you will see them...They set up camps and go into abandoned or empty homes and start fires. You can set in some parks and along about dark, you will see them going and coming from the woods....where they stay.
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- You can go into any section of Roanoke city and see someone that's homeless. Many main streets you'll see panhandlers and if you walk through the heart of downtown, there's homeless people on just about every corner.
 - I see homeless people in all areas of the city. Most are panhandling and "camping" near businesses and busy intersections.
 - Similar to last response. There needs to be outreach, going to those in need rather than expecting them to come to the resources.
 - Especially as winter approaches, at a minimum, physical needs have to be met. Ideally, additional services would help after that.
 - I work at Carilion as a peer recovery specialist and community health worker meaning that I work with families, those struggling with their mental health, and individuals that can't gain access to resources every day. If I meet with 5 clients in a day at least 2 of them are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and this increases monthly. The Rescue Mission will not take every individual, the HAT team has limited hours/resources, and people are constantly living on the streets
 - It's a serious issue because you have hundreds of children without permanent homes setting them up to fall behind in school and repeating the viscous cycle. You have people living on corners in fields and on the street. You have places that offer shelter at night only....where are they supposed to go during the day??? Especially when it's freezing outside or 100 degrees.
 - I been living in Roanoke City since 2012, and over the last 2 years Homeless people have double maybe triple.
 - They take over all public spaces. They literally live in the breezeway from the Hotel Roanoke to downtown. "Welcome to Roanoke".
 - Inflation, access to resources, unclean shelters and people not willing to actually help
 - Compared to other cities, Roanoke's homeless problem would be considered moderate. However, the problem seems to be increasing and those that are homeless are becoming more visible which is what is disruptive to citizens.
 - I worked in various parts of the city rehabbing old homes. Everywhere there were homeless people wandering & even squatting on these properties. I was amazed that there were so many.
 - There is much more homelessness in city than what is seen in the downtown area. it has infiltrated all neighborhoods including the surrounding towns and counties. Much of it unseen.
 - We have homeless people everywhere in Roanoke
 - Every intersection is littered with homeless people panhandling. They also have multiple camps such as the one off hersherberger. It truly makes our city look awful.
 - Homelessness in Roanoke is as its worst
 - Because there are very limited housing for low income families resulting into homelessness. Too many children sleeping cars. Everything is going up and government assistance like tanf is not enough to cover bills. Another of low income families are facing homelessness.
 - Roanoke has created this issue . Stop allowing people to live outside. Roanoke county does not have this problem and neither does Salem . The city needs to clean up .
 - When those with mental health challenges that are left to his/her own devices their behaviors escalate, thus creating increase crime and substance abuse issues.
 - Just based on what I see
 - Under-housed, homeless, and not homeless but panhandling, leave trash and blight in areas where they congregate. Not all have addictions, mental health issues, however there needs to be enforcement of existing laws related to panhandling, standing on curbs, littering etc. Being homeless should not be comfortable. Encouraging people to be better and do better may mean tough love.
 - Structural factors that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic has caused homelessness/housing crises to increase in the community. Addressing these structural issues (lack of affordable rental housing, increasing income inequality, inflation, increased untreated mental illness, substance use, etc.) will be critical in our community's ability to address homelessness in a sustainable way.
 - I am not homeless, but I live near the city's homeless assistance office, and see and encounter large numbers of the city's homeless population on a daily basis.
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- I think that homelessness exists and is a very serious issue for those that are experiencing it. I think that there are more individuals thought to be homeless and panhandling that are more visible that make the serious, but moderate issue, seem even bigger that are a larger issue.
 - It's a moderate issue that's becoming more severe. There are a lot of homeless people in Roanoke. You see them almost everywhere now.
 - Homelessness has always been and will be, I think a lot of them are not from the Roanoke area. What I have learned is Roanoke has the best services and that's part of the reason they may come here.
 - homeless population is increasing into camps; i understand the necessity of community
 - What do you mean explain if you have eyes you see the homeless in our city everywhere everyday.
 - Homelessness crisis in Roanoke Valley will continue as there is little rehab options and lack of transitional housing to help learn life skills. Lack of affordable housing and access to transportation buses need to be 24 hours and have access to employment areas in the valley.
 - There are homeless encampments all throughout the city. It seems like the homeless population has tripled in the last 3 or so years.
 - look about if you're not seeing it then you're ignoring it
 - Just as stated...all people would benefit from a solution to this problem.
 - If we stop letting homeless people come in from other states and help the ones that are losing there housing in the Roanoke area get help away from drugs it's a start
 - Any one homeless is a very serious issue.
 - i see it everyday
 - The cost of rent in the valley has risen substantially, making it very hard to afford.
 - I see homeless people all over downtown and the surrounding areas. They beg for money.
 - There are homeless or almost homeless people in just about every area of the city. A lot of these people have jobs but can't afford the massive rents that are oh so common now.
 - The reasons I have been homeless in my life are: being shunned by my Evangelical religious family, domestic violence at the hands of men that I had to live with because I was homeless, inability to work due to mental illness, and inability to get help from church communities because they think it's not their duty to help they think it's the government's duty
 - It's gotten worse homelessness is ignored in Roanoke
 - Since the pandemic the homeless has tripled. Panhandling is at an all time high.
 - The pan handling needs to stop and the homeless that sits at the store on 9th Street the tent cities near the ramp getting on interstate at Elm and Hershberger at Lowes.
 - Everywhere you turn and look there is someone homeless. They have taken over areas on sidewalks and woods. That is no way to live. You should be able to walk down the street without stepping over people. Also the drug use is awful, there are needles found in parks and other recreational areas that kids play in. We need more drug rehab places or mental facilities to help with the drug abuse. Times are hard for everyone and we all have moments where we struggle. I feel for the homeless population because I know some of them have lost their way, others are on drugs or in bad situations and choose to be that way.
 - I have lived in s.e. Roanoke for 73 years and never seen so many people on streets in need of help
 - I've seen people living in tents on sidewalks throughout the city. It's very disturbing, Children getting on and off of school buses in front of hotels. I'm appalled that city officials don't see what I see and not be bothered by it.
 - Every city after Covid and the housing crisis has an uprising in homelessness.
 - it needs to be addressed. The city is suffering from it. They are sitting up camp o s all over causing fires in abandoned houses. Leaving trash all over. Ean the city up.
 - I am raising three of our grandchildren and our daughter and her boyfriend are currently homeless
 - We now have "homeless camps". Half of which leave unsightly & unsanitary messes with no regard towards anyone else.
 - Homelessness is a serious problem due to the economy, lack of affordable housing and or opportunities for those with bad credit, mental illness, etc.
 - I hate being harrassed by vagrants for money while on my commute to my job
 - Everywhere I go in Roanoke I see homeless camps. They seem to be popping up everywhere.
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- Everywhere you go in Roanoke there are homeless individuals and the downtown shelter available is atrocious
 - I'm a homeowner in Southeast. I see them all time, in our yards, the back alleys, we find needles on the streets and parking pads. This is a problem that cannot go away unless we try to help.
 - People on disability can't afford rent. Need more places that cater to those on SSI and disability. Maybe try cracking down on pan handling
 - Again you see it throughout the city and it appears to be a growing problem. There is drugs and alcohol involved. You can see that all over the city too among the homeless or those portraying homelessness.
 - To many people in southeast streets too many drugs and alcohol pill popping people at res mission selling there snap. Card for drugs .too many people selling there pain pills for money drugs close down res mission that house men moved them to a other places .moved the family with kids to other places .for the kids safety.take land build tiny 🏠 for the people living in the woods streets parks stop building rich to do homes and apt for the rich .do more for the poor people on this earth.
 - Housing is unaffordable for low income and those who cannot obtain work. There aren't any programs and resources actively trying to help people with mental health issues or drug addiction to seriously heal, restore, and obtain work and housing.
 - I have lived in places with significantly worse homelessness and I'm fortunate to live in a part of town where I am shielded from extreme poverty so I am a poor judge on the true extent of Roanokes homeless population.
 - I'm currently homeless and struggling with my partner and child
 - Too many people begging for money. You see one on every corner. If they can stand there,, they can work. Make them work. Quit handing them stuff. MOST of them are capable of working. Help the ones who really do need it.
 - N/A
 - The streets and alleys in the city are overrun with tent cities , people stealing , drug use in plain sight on the streets. People sleeping on the sidewalks.
 - Elected officials have done nothing to help this for far to long. Now it's out of hand.
 - You can't go anywhere in the city and stop at a light and not have them staring you in the face holding a sign for help. I can barely keep myself going with 2 jobs. I get sick of it and avoid going places in the city if I can, it has gotten ridiculous. Camps on the side of stores. Moving into neighborhoods because they were ran out of downtown. It looks like the city just doesn't want to see them. Now that they aren't downtown sleeping they don't care.
 - I see them in tents
 - There are several homeless camps. I have seen many sleeping on sidewalks , in front of stores.
 - People quit giving money to these low life's they will move on to another town
 - just look around
 - A majority of people "begging" claim to be homeless but they are not. They are often grouped together in homes and come out to beg because when you don't have to pay taxes on your income collected by passerby's, it's plenty of money to live off of. And let's face it, drugs are the real problem. Not a lack of jobs or a lack of income for housing. If you sit in the parking lot advance auto on 13th street for 2 hours, you will see drug addicts with HUGE wads of cash. They will then go to the side of that gas station and literally shoot up drugs on the sidewalk, then return to the corner the next day. I'm sure this varies from different parts of the city but this is what I see. And I see it daily. And this is why I've been looking for somewhere else to move my residence and my business. The "homeless" community in SE has gotten significantly worse since the Ramada has been torn down and it feels incredibly unsafe living within 10 miles of the area. It feels unsafe DRIVING through it! Homelessness is not a huge problem in the city. Drugs are. And if you want to prevent people from being homeless, you Need have to slow down the drugs. 13 years ago I was on the verge of being homeless after a divorce. I started a landscaping business with nothing but a few hand tools. I didn't even own a truck. I now have 5 employees, 3 trucks, 5 trailers, 2 million In equipment and work for 12 months of the year. AND I'm a female! So I KNOW you can make it happen. People are CHOOSING to be homeless because of drugs and because we enable them. Obviously not all of our homeless community are doing this but I can tell you the ones in SE are. I've ASKED them! They will openly tell you they choose this life because we make it easy for them!
 - I see homeless people sleeping literally everywhere. Panhandling at many intersections and homeless camps, next to the Sheets off or orange, off of Valley View Blvd., and over near Elm / I81.
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- There are far too many unsheltered Roanoke citizens and the number is rising. There are encampments throughout the City and in residential neighborhoods which creates public health and safety issues.
 - There will always be homeless people. Some do not want to be helped. You have to work on the ones who are willing to work to help themselves and put your efforts toward them.
 - Homeless congregate everywhere you look around the city. There are extreme amounts of panhandling and encampments of homelessness most places you look.
 - I live near where a camp was setup and I see pan handlers more now than before 2020.
 - There are multiple camp sites and areas where the unhoused are living that are a public health concern and are a danger to themselves and others.
 - Because there is a housing increase that people can't afford to live.
 - Mental instability is causing much of homelessness. Too many panhandlers.
 - Worked at KK for 7 years it kept getting worse.
 - I've had to live in a crappy motel called Kingston Inn that I barely afford barely as a person on SSI. I can't afford a Reagan apartment in my city. 1 bed room apartments are going for 800 an up then you have light bills, food an expense after that.
 - The backpack bicycle people in city are a problem.
 - I live in an area where a homeless shelter exists and everyday I witness the homeless first hand. Sleeping in yards on sidewalks and loitering at business establishments in the surrounding area.
 - There are so many families without housing due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances. It is not just drug addicts. It is middle class families without means to get a mortgage but due to rising rent prices and limited vacancies they are unable to find permanent housing. Understand the diverse needs and backgrounds of those experiencing homelessness will allow you to reach more people.
 - Homelessness is a worsening problem, but is at a stage now that is actionable. The city needs to count people staying in the motels in their homelessness count. The closure of 3 motels this year is a very big concern to me going into the colder winter season.
 - Too many people/families are homeless and the city needs more emergency funding to help them.
 - It's getting worse.
 - Local shelters and programs do nothing to help homelessness. There have been the same people at the Rescue Mission for over 10 years. If they were helping people, they wouldn't still be homeless. The Homeless Assistance Team takes their time getting people the things they need. It shouldn't take a year or longer for them to get someone an ID. The RAM House is also the same way and so is the Salvation Army.
 - They cover the streets in downtown Roanoke.
 - Housing is too expensive and difficult to find affordable housing. So many end up homeless at no fault of their own.
 - We have people in all areas sleeping on the street. We have pan handlers on every corner. I can't go to a grocery store without someone asking me for money, or cigarettes.
 - I see a lot of homeless families now and more children.
 - With all the persons on street corners and students (families) in our schools - it is SERIOUS.
 - Every street corner has someone holding a sign asking for money. Ride thru southeast around the D&G Mart, this is a hang out for the homeless and drug users.
 - I see homeless or panhandling at many busy intersections and evidence of the homeless around the city (errant shopping carts, sleeping bags, etc.)
 - We definitely have a homeless problem, I know a lot of elderly have issues getting jobs but these young people I see out there bumming need to get jobs and can get a job if they weren't so lazy.
 - Shut the Rescue Mission down.
 - Everywhere you look there is a person on the corner begging for money 24/7.
 - People are breaking into cars and stealing and messing with properties and sleeping in allies behind houses that have families inside the home. It's unsafe. Most aren't in the right mind.
 - Downtown Roanoke is not as safe anymore due not only homelessness but even dangerous for them being down there with traffic and going into public buildings.
 - I am comparing visible homelessness in Roanoke to similar sized cities only.
 - There is a great deal of homelessness and due to hostile architecture and laws and policies that penalize poverty, poor people have no where to go.
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- Although Roanoke may not have an insurmountable number of homeless, the fact that many people are living in horrible conditions because there history of frequent unemployment/eviction has forced them to rent from "slumlords." While not technically homeless, it is unsafe, unhealthy and the state laws are on the landlords' side. Restoration Housing uses a wonderful model to restore these properties and then rent them according to the federal guidelines for affordable housing. Nonetheless, this nonprofit can only restore one property per year. Similar models can be used by the city. More Habitat Homes need to be built. The goal is to move toward home ownership.
 - Any homelessness is a serious problem
 - no matter what time of day or route I take there are always homeless on corners/intersections asking for money.
 - when people are sleeping in my backyard then theres a problem for sure
 - It's not as bad here as in other cities, but legal action should be taken against other towns and cities who bus their homeless population to Roanoke.
 - I'm an Uber driver right now while I'm in school. I see a little bit of everything. It is a very serious problem in certain areas. There are stores that I will never stop at again just because I know that I will be accosted for money. My 12 year old son was even harassed for money when he walked to school. There is trash building up a lot in spots where they hang out. I personally have a friend who lives downtown who has had physical altercations with some homeless men trying to mug him. They are still sleeping out downtown and other areas. I've had them come up and bang on my window at interesections wanting money which scared my youngest child. I couldn't go into the post office one night because there was a man camping out in front of it and I didn't feel safe. I feel like no one takes it seriously and it'll eventually become as bad as it is in DC and California with tent cities and drug needles everywhere and the constant smell of urine etc if things are allowed to continue the direction they are going now.
 - Because it's homeless everywhere you go in the city if we want more ppl to visit we have to keep our city clean and more ppl off the street sleeping
 - One on every single corner in my neighborhood and my 16 year old daughter can't check the mail with out being asked for a dollar or being whistled at.
 - People are homeless and not being able to get out of their slump regardless of how much they are trying bc of the way nothing is affordable for a large percentage of people
 - The homeless population has increased dramatically over the past decade
 - I live in Southeast where I have watched the homeless population explode in the last couple of years. It is disheartening and scary.
 - I know dozens of people who have gone homeless or experienced homelessness in the last few years. I myself have experienced it.
 - Roanoke decided it was a good idea to ban camping on sidewalks, but, nothing that I see was done to offer housing solutions at the same time.
 - I've never seen this many homeless in one city the city needs to do more to help!
 - Increasing number of homeless individuals on street corners, living in tents/cars, or sleeping downtown near businesses.
 - The situation seems to have gotten worse and worse over the last several years as a direct result of the city's policies and decisions.
 - Homelessness does exist in Roanoke, however I believe in order to prevent homelessness there needs to be more affordable housing and financial aid.
 - If you build the facilities and make them comfortable they will come. Stop enabling the problem.
 - There are some individuals who want to remain unhoused. The issue ultimately is 1) the community's response "get out of my neighborhood" mentality, and 2) the individuals who are likely in need of mental health and/or substance abuse services. Neither have an easy solution because in both cases there has to be the "want" for change.
 - Quit letting other cities bus their homeless to Roanoke
 - Lower taxes to encourage job creation so people can afford housing. Lower taxes so current homeowners don't become homeless. Encourage people to work, not receive free housing.
 - People are standing at the intersections more than ever. Bags of trash and furniture built up in the wood or any area they congregate.
 - Because a lot of people are homeless right now because they don't have a home to go to and it is a serious issue because they have nowhere to really go
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- I have a niece who is homeless no where legally for her to go other than rescue mission
 - Where I live, I've had several neighbors in the 7.5 years I've been here who were previously homeless, sometimes for decades. Through them, I met many other long-term homeless people. In talking with them, I observed that they are that way because they want to be, e.g., they don't want responsibility and/or choose to be illegal drug users. I also had several neighbors who had their rent and food paid by the government every month but spent frequent time on street corners with signs asking for money because food stamps can't be used to buy alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. I'll never give a penny to one of those liars holding their cardboard signs. This city has unbelievably good benefits for the homeless (including short term, like my friend who needed to be a woman's shelter coming out from her abusive husband), the rescue mission, financial support for helping people pay utilities and rent to avoid becoming homeless or to help them work into new apartments, extensive mental health resources, etc. I've had many neighbors also get evicted from not being able to pay their rent. I've given them rides to shelters and other places.
 - They are all over the street corners, hanging around the gas station, on the medium strips, and walking around my neighborhood looking for things to steal and places to break into. From the highway at Elm St. to the train bridge going into Vinton.
 - It is a extreme problem, and the government of this fair city spends too much time turning a blind eye, or underplaying the issue. We have one shelter, which is more a for profit business, like our so -called not for profit hospital, the largest employer in the valley, who spends more time buying up property in this city and calling the shots I do see the largest employer making a effort to help. They just shuffle the homeless to Southeast, like we welcome the influx of people, sleeping on the sidewalks, the trash, the being harassed going into local stores, the drug traffic, the police who don't respond because after all "It is Southeast".
 - Help the homeless who are physically and mentally ill. Give the rest enough help to find a path out of homelessness. If they refuse help or continue to fall into drug and alcohol abuse then convince them to move along.
 - There is a homeless person panhandling at every stop light and it's uncomfortable
 - They are sleeping in public parks all times of the day. Exposing themselves while urinating in the view of children and the elderly. And they make people all around uncomfortable.
 - I myself have experienced homelessness
 - If no action is taken now, it will become a much more serious problem in the next 5-10 years
 - Many of these folks have nothing to lose which can make them dangerous
 - No one should be living on the streets in America. If we can give tax cuts to the super rich and send money to other countries we can provide housing for our citizens.
 - No one should be on the street How can we talk about other countries and we are just as bad
 - People walking up to cars and asking for money etc
 - When they don't have a job and draining financially, it would cause problems and wanted to stay off the street to be safe.
 - I live in Old Southwest and the streets are full of homeless people. I have seen tents in highland park, that are taken down every morning. Neighbors in multi apartment buildings regularly find homeless people sleeping on the porch. We are all aware of some that sleep in abandoned homes. The homeless addicts and those with mental health issues scare me. I have been followed, yelled at and harassed because I don't have money to give them. I now carry a whistle and pepper spray when I walk my dog. I don't want to see anyone homeless, hungry or suffering mentally. I also don't want to see one of neighbors afraid to leave their homes.
 - It's extremely serious because of drug issues, panhandling, and the fact that it's difficult to remove the homeless. Many want to stay where they are.
 - It exists, is not serious. My lack of "personal experience" does not make my opinion less valid, particularly when it is my tax dollars that funded ARPA to begin with.
 - I have lived in Roanoke 15 years and used to work downtown daily. The number of encounters with homeless people has increased. The number of people openly using illegal drugs and damaging property has also increased. I think the cause is addiction and mental health. The only way to solve the problem is to address the cause.
 - There are rings available most nights at the rescue mission, but homeless people choose not to follow the rules and stay outside begging for money
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- I work in downtown and it is becoming terrible. The park is filled with homeless any given day.
 - Many folk living outside
 - There are homeless people everywhere. Lots of street corners, underpasses, etc have people standing there begging for help.
 - People don't want to get up and go get a job. They want a handout. They want free living, free food stamps, a free phone. Someone has to pay for it. I'm tired of working my ass off 60 hours a week just for people like this to be given shit for free. Start cutting out salaries from the city of Roanoke. stop wasting money on stupid shit. Buying city vehicles just for people to drive around in. Roanoke city has a spending problem.
 - Responsible home owners deal with and pay the price due to drunks, addicts and the mentally ill living in, trashing 🤢 and stealing in our neighborhoods
 - homeless are all over the city, near downtown, near kroger/lowes/airport, all over
 - Every major intersection in town has at least one beggar, if there is somewhere they can post up
 - Although I believe there is a rise of homeless people I do still believe that there are other issues more pressing
 - Many people are one paycheck from homelessness and with the rental companies working together getting housing again is almost impossible.
 - I live by the hospital in downtown and the homeless encampments in the woods along the Roanoke river are scary to see and live near. These homeless pollute the river and the woods and are doing drugs and having sex as though they are allowed to camp there and do whatever they want. Numerous times the homeless are disturbing the peace screaming and yelling on the greenway threatening people and alarming the residents.
 - Literally everywhere I go in Roanoke there are homeless people camped out, walking around with all of their belongings, or begging for change on the corners. They're in the parks even though they aren't supposed to be.
 - There are so many homeless already, many people just barely hanging on at the brink, & housing in Roanoke is way too expensive. The wages here don't support the housing prices.
 - Visitors to our area always mention the homeless population.
 - Homelessness is very very serious. They are everywhere. The gardens in the neighborhoods have stands. You see the Homeless sleeping everywhere.
 - They are everywhere and I believe some people are just begging for money as there employment. Some have more than you and me put together.
 - Roanoke is on the edge of homelessness becoming a very serious issue, even in the past 2 years I have noticed more people and it has begun creating additional problems in communities around downtown because of the lack of support.
 - Homeless populations are rising and ruining the city
 - The encampments appear to have increased over the past several years. It is rare that I am downtown without someone appearing to be homeless asking for money. People with homeless signs asking for assistance are at many intersections throughout the city.
 - The homelessness in Roanoke is not invisible, over 300 children homeless and that is expected to grow, this sanctuary city is failing
 - Answer based on percentage of homeless population in the city.
 - It is a serious problem and makes Roanoke look out of control of helping with these people's needs. Plus it's dangerous for its the residents.
 - It needs to be addressed with compassion
 - These people need help.
 - There are a lot of homeless living in city parks and Greenways. People standing on intersections as well.
 - na
 - Most of the ones that claim that they are homeless is not they just is too sorry to work or just to use the system and want to make folks feel sorry I've done seen some of them that be holding the little signs without the signs and they be dressed better than some people that works every day.
 - The streets are flooded with people who are homeless
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- I see individuals every morning laying in the grass at Elmwood Park. The gathering of individuals beside the gas station on Elm Ave, the tents and make shift shelters beside Krisy Kreme/behind Lowes are a few examples
 - Vagrants wander the streets at all hours, harassing and threatening anyone they see. The screams of the mentally ill can be heard at night throughout the downtown area. Our public areas are overrun with vagrants sleeping or simply wasting away. Drug use is rampant among their vile populous. Action must be taken to bring our proud city to a glorious new age.
 - Someone is on every corner. It cost more for a homeless to stay on the street than it would cost the city to house them.
 - There is A LOT of Homeless people and almost homeless people in the city of Roanoke. It's even more now with the cost of living and rent/mortgage going up and no one can barely afford it because the pay rate isn't changing.
 - There are dozens of people panhandling every day
 - Drugs and such have blown up In our town...alot of them don't want to work..
 - There are homeless people everywhere
 - Everywhere you go they are asking for money the city looks bad from all the litter from them living in bushes on sidewalk. You find drug paraphernalia all over the place. People in a drug nod from taking heroin from them going in stores stealing and nothing is done.
 - It is creating an opportunity for elevated crime and an overall diminished experience living in Roanoke.
 - Homeless is very serious in Roanoke Va. I am homeless myself. I can't afford the rent or someone else have the money faster. I am on a fixed income, eith no where to live. And motels /hotels are too expensive
 - Homelessness is a very serious issue for those who experience it.
 - Have you seen downtown? Homeless literally camp out in front of the city economic development building on church ave
 - If you think it is less than very serious, you will see how serious it is, go downtown, se roanoke, elm street, taubman
 - Roanoke helps everyone get appropriate housing, expect for disabled people.
 - Homelessness has increased in Roanoke since the pandemic
 - People wouldn't be homeless or going to be homeless if Roanoke landlords and corporation wouldn't make rent and mortgage so high that nobody can pay
 - No one needs to be homeless with the help of welfare assistance, fee medical, job training, SNAP, counseling, etc.
 - Go to Sheetz. Drive down Williamson Rd. Take a trip to the airport. There's homeless camps everywhere. They sleep on sidewalks and sadly they look like corpses scattered across parking lots and medians. There are not enough resources that help with underlying causes of homelessness (mental illnesses, drug use, or finance issues) the resources we do have are limited.
 - Roanoke does carry a disproportionate amount of the regional burden, so coordinating our efforts as a community to help in evidenced based ways is wise
 - It seems worse than it is because there are no homeless safe spaces and a lot of trash. I don't agree that homeless people want to be housed.
 - Read it. Elder Abuse
 - I see people begging for money everywhere I go because their homeless, especially underneath a sign that says call 211 for help with resources. Homeless? Beggars? Either way it's a problem.
 - You can't go 5 feet without seeing homelessness and it's sad because they are veterans and mentally challenged and just need help
 - I see homeless often. But really a lot of cities I been to has the issue
 - Because of the lack of help for those does not of wealth they turn a blind eye on people that is struggling to survive they're not even willing to help people get identities to try to get a job once you get a record you are thrown out like trash and not considering an equal and if you have a poor education you have no chance
 - Homelessness is getting worse by the day
 - Every corner, underpass, parking lot, etc, there is a gathering of homeless people. 1 out of 5 homeless die every hour. This is a very serious situation.
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- They are on all corners, sleeping in woods and crime continues to increase
 - As a social worker who often has vulnerable people as clients, I see the effects of high rental costs frequently. Homelessness is a desperate situation.
 - A lot of people come for the mission but there is no safety net to help people that can't stay at the mission. It's either the mission or the streets.
 - Homeless keep breaking into our basement for rest or other reasons.
 - I have a family who lives in the hotel drogo's tried to pay the hotel room your family and make sure your teenagers don't even get Christmas
 - Veterans ADM. needs to step up&help Veterans
 - It's sad to see homeless is happening in Roanoke and every where else
 - The onset of new and older populations experiencing homelessness in Roanoke has always been visible/known. We cannot provide safe mental health services. Most people in need of mental health calls in Roanoke are met with degradation from the local police before receiving the care and help they need. financial assistance is another less seen form of aid in the community.
 - I work in roanoke and have been threatened by homeless individuals while walking to lunch. One cannot walk downtown without passing several homeless individuals. The stairway of the pedestrian bridge to the hotel roanoke reeks of urine. These occurrences have been on the rise in the past few years.
 - I see people panhandling in a lot of places. I hate this! Also, I've seen sleeping on benches and laying around at several Dollar General stores especially in SE. I feel I have to keep my car windows closed and won't shop stores where people are just loafing around.
 - We don't have tent cities yet.....
 - The lack of mental health care and resources for the homeless is embarrassing
 - The homeless population is increasing consistently over the past several years. This is evident when seeing pan-handlers and people sleeping in the streets as well as taking over run down motels.
 - homelessness is not a welcome sight. it is not good for business nor the community at large to have this cast number of homeless people in the community.
 - High rate of unaccounted homeless and those at risk for being homeless.
 - Homelessness is a problem but Roanoke City's approach banning people from tables on the market or park benches and the like just penalizes the poor. It does not help them.
 - I may not be as knowledgeable, but I feel it is a very important issue as anyone homeless is an important issue.
 - I've seen more homeless people in the 5 years I've lived in Roanoke than anywhere else In my life
 - I think it is an issue that deserves serious attention. It is not yet at crisis stage but that may change when the weather changes.
 - Too many homeless that are not willing to work. I see homeless standing in front of a store or restaurant with signs showing they are hiring but instead the homeless still stand with a sign asking for help. You have to be able to help yourself to make the right steps in the right direction. Too many abusing the system currently that we have in place. Sad to see in the city i live in!
 - When driving up Mill Mountain within the last year, I saw those the unhoused population being roused from their hidden enclave. It brought me to tears- not only because of those being removed but by those City employees being charged with this task. On a related note, working off of Hershberger Road I see shifts of regularly rotating panhandlers. There must be other options for a community with such a visible presence. Perhaps those experiencing homelessness should be consulted in this process!
 - I see homeless people daily, but it is not a worrisome amount, and I rarely feel threatened by any of the people
 - No one in the civilized country should be homeless. The people with mental issues should have a place to go.
 - It is nearly impossible to be out and about in the city of Roanoke without being harassed by a drug addict.
 - Homelessness is prevalent but the homeless population isn't being a disruption.
 - More and more people are seen sleeping on sidewalks, or creating small 'tent cities', Panhanling, etc and it's impacting area businesses and/or certain residential areas that need safe neighborhoods for children. The problem will grow and we need to choose proactive strategies to get ahead of it.
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- I see different people on my local corner every day, asking for money. People I've seen sitting there for over a year now. They stay poor, they stay homeless and they stay jobless. They need more help than passing cars can give them.
 - Many homeless people are not there because they want to be. All of their lives or different, people have so many problems. Can't pay rent, drug addition, lost their home, mental health
 - Too many individuals are without permanent shelter or the wherewithal to obtain such shelter. Many of them also have mental health or substance abuse issues that aren't being addressed.
 - There are so many people either homeless or very close to it. Domestic violence victims almost always leave with nothing and need help getting on their feet. Considering the drastic increase in domestic violence, this is a very important issue.
 - From the looks of things we are experiencing more homeless individuals than ever. As well as a lot of vagrant individuals mixed in.
 - There are areas downtown that feel unsafe at times when homeless people ask for money, at times aggressively.
 - I regularly see homeless people on street corners, downtown, and in sections of the greenway. I also work with many clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
 - I constantly see people experiencing homelessness everywhere I go. For a city of our size, this is by far too big of an issue. Instead of spending funds to build an unnecessary bridge in Wasena, why don't we help those in our city who are experiencing homelessness?
 - There are many people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and little support.
 - 1. It's morally wrong not to care for the homeless 2. Having homeless people around is bad for business and tourism 3. People living outdoors end up costing the city a lot in terms of avoidable medical expenses and crime
 - The homeless stay in groups and collectively leave trash wherever they go.
 - Since moving to Roanoke 5 years ago, I have seen the number of folks experiencing homelessness skyrocket and beyond seeing signs in the medians and seeing tickets being dished out, the response seems slow, and ill-informed.
 - There are homeless people soliciting at every major intersection in the city despite signs saying this is not allowed and giving them a phone number to call to request assistance. They don't want assistance from the city or churches, just enough cash from commuters to get their fix. It also seems that a lot of them aren't even homeless, just hustling and grifting people out of their money.
 - The residents see homelessness more often now as they are in the median asking for money in high traffic areas. Homelessness is a moderate issue for residents but it is a major issue to those affected.
 - It is a serious issue because it is affecting the quality of life of both those who are homeless and other residents.
 - It may be moderate now. However, winter is coming as rents have exploded. The PIT count will go through the roof. Richmond has already seen this with their Summer count.
 - Many of the cities residents live at or below the poverty line, and all it takes is one unfortunate event to become homeless. Everything is so much harder from there.
 - It is apparent just by driving on any block in Downtown Roanoke how serious of an issue homelessness is. In light of Covid, the city needs to do more to provide resources to these folks to get the help they need. Rent rates have become so astronomically high that it has become nearly impossible for a single person working a full-time job to be able to afford a 1BR apartment on their own.
 - I'm tired of being harassed by homeless every time I go downtown. Roanoke seems to be doing nothing about it.
 - Homelessness in and of itself is a serious problem. However, having lived in cities across the southeast, Roanoke's homeless issue doesn't seem as severe as other cities.
 - Homelessness frequency rates have increased in the last few years. The "hard to place", oppositional homeless is more of a concern than in the past.
 - I live near where the Ramada is, and there is a very apparent issue with homelessness. Many of the homeless have to turn to panhandling in the area. The destruction of the Ramada only dispersed the homeless community
 - The fact that anyone has to sleep on the street (especially with winter approaching) is unacceptable. The shelters and agreements with hotels and motels are just paying the irresponsible owners of these establishments who have strict rules and often drive people away, right back to the streets.
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- First, everyone doesn't want to move to Lincoln Terrace, The Hunts or Indian Village!!! It is serious because our youth cannot afford their own space once of age. Our youth is leaving Roanoke City. These people are leaving in Roanoke City because there is not anything to offer. No job, no home. Living with the parent or other relative IS NOT what most young adults want to do.
 - How does one confront the attitude of people who do not wish to be homeless, but do not wish to participate in society in a way that prevents them from becoming/remaining homeless?
 - It is dangerous for people to live on the street - it's a physical health risk due to lack of access to clean water and a place to shower, use the restroom, wash clothes and bed linens and wash any reusable food items. Bacteria is more likely to grow when people can't wash themselves and their things, putting them at higher risk for infections. Extreme weather (which Roanoke definitely gets) puts folks at huge risk for heatstrokes, dehydration, heat related illnesses as well as frostbite, freezing, pneumonia, etc. Being houseless is also a mental health issue - safety is one of the most important factors in a human's life. A safe and secure home is the basis of our survival, and without that, a person's psyche is in constant survival mode, unable to regulate and focus on anything besides putting one foot in front of the other. Beyond all of that, it is highly demoralizing and isolating.
 - Tents, garbage and people sleeping in woods along main roadways and on sidewalks. People actively using drugs while you're waiting at a stoplight. Pan handling is worse.
 - Many of Roanoke's homeless community lives in the shadows and is stigmatized for being addicted to drugs. There are also many people who are stuck in a perpetual cycle of living in motels, paying day by day and are unable to save up for a deposit for an apartment/car/ or other basic necessities. The issue extends outside of people who are sleeping outside downtown or camping on public land
 - too many people panhandling
 - Once it starts to get chili and son starts to go down you see all the homeless people coming out of nowhere laying on the side of the street doing drugs on the side of the street kids are seeing people drugged out walking up and down the street selling them self's for a place to go
 - Humans that live in our city should be cared for as best as we can.
 - The number of homeless individuals in the city has skyrocketed. With it, too has the number of overdoses, break ins, vandalism, indecent exposure and other crime. We need rehabilitation programs, housing, job training and some way of holding individuals accountable for trying to improve their situation. I believe the more we encourage and provide assistance to those wanting to do better, the faster we can begin to make a dent in getting people off the streets.
 - People should not be forced by any combination of circumstances to live without shelter, water, basic medical treatment, food. Our society should be judge by how the hardest hit amongst us are treated. Only when when no one is deprived of basic rights are we successful.
 - Many that could afford to rent or have mortgage, pay ~\$300 a week for hotel rooms.
 - Increased number of homeless individuals in my neighborhood and on Greenway areas.
 - Its getting exponentially worse every month. More and more beggars sitting outside anywhere they can find to harrass people. I don't feel safe walking my Round Hill neighborhood at night because its filled with wandering zombies now. You call emergency services and they state they do not have the staff to enforce the law or keep citizens safe.
 - Many people are one paycheck away from being houseless. It can happen to anyone. It's happened to me.
 - Homelessness is always a serious issue, the community itself should try to help.
 - The rising costs of housing and utilities, paired with lack of enough housing units, is at a boiling point. More low- to moderate-income families and single-households alike are at greater risk of housing insecurity or homelessness. The City needs more housing units, and more affordable units, immediately. This is the perfect use for ARPA funding, since some of these housing pressures are directly due to the pandemic affecting supply chains, unemployment, and housing insecurity. There was already a lack of adequate housing supply since development of new units declined after the Great Recession. Are there also opportunities to repurpose vacant industrial or retail buildings for housing in the City?
 - The best thing to do is screening for drugs and alcohol because most of these people or seriously addicted to drugs and alcohol and they'll never come up out of the hole unless they are rehabilitated and if they don't want to do well they have to be on their own
 - Every corner on Roanoke has a pan handler and some of them are aggressive. Some parts of the city are becoming more dangerous as a result of poverty and the issues that stem from it.
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- Everyone needs a safe place to stay. And no one should be sleeping in the cold or starving.
 - I see homeless panhandling all the time in the city and see them congregate outside businesses in wooded areas to set up camp
 - As I mentioned before, I have been homeless three times since moving to Roanoke. The lack of affordable housing will only increase this issue for the foreseeable future. The fact most jobs will not pay a living wage only compounds this problem.
 - Every day there are more and more people on the corners and in motels.
 - I've seen it directly linked to the amount of illicit drug trafficking and black market activity. These people need a system that gives them more than what they are finding in the streets.
 - There is homelessness but most homeless don't necessarily want to live according to the social norms.
 - If you've never been to nor lived in a larger city then you would not understand what a real homelessness issue looks like. Truthfully that's all the more reason to provide aide in combating. It could be much worse. Roanoke has enough concentrated wealth to do this.
 - It is a serious issue because I've seen homeless people high on drugs about to fall in the street. They also go up to cars and harass people constantly.
 - Roanoke needs to stop encouraging it and stop attracting more of it.
 - I recently moved back to Roanoke and homelessness is a much more visible issue than it was <10 years ago which suggests that we lack the framework in our city to help/support folks at risk or experiencing homelessness.
 - Too many homeless are having a negative impact on livability of citizens and businesses that are paying the already high taxes. Homeless number need to be reduced not expanded. Stop making this area an attractive destination for them.
 - Homelessness is a result of poverty, which makes our city look like it doesn't care about its people when it's a relatively simple case of money management.
 - You are chipping away at your tax base downtown. Enforce the rule or law to keep panhandlers out of the median. It's a safety issue, it's so common to see fights over "the best corner". Not to mention how horrible the first impression people see when they get off on elm ave is people panhandling while standing in a literal pile of trash. Also the massive amount of drug use, intoxication, and violence that runs rampant in the homeless population. The sleeping on the sidewalks improved briefly but there are not enough police to enforce it.
 - too many people are homeless
 - You can't go anywhere in the city and not see signs of homelessness. We can't keep looking the other way.
 - I have been homeless now for 2 years and have been to the HAT team for assistance and because I had a car and slept in my car I was not considered as home less?? No help at all from any of the programs that I have been referred to!
 - I feel the majority of pan handlers are not homeless. There's a handful that I believe truly are, but I rarely see them on the corners. It's hard to estimate (for me) how many/how serious roanoke homeless population is because I don't see them often There's a few that I've personally spoke to, they don't pan handle they're walking around trying to stay busy, looking for a job.
 - Gang issues and crime are bigger issues
 - They're not homeless. They are panhandlers who are addicts.
 - People are everywhere!!!
 - Having semi-recently moved to Roanoke, one of the first things I noticed was an overwhelming amount of homeless people, panhandlers, etc. I see these people daily, regardless of the neighborhood I'm in. It is a visible issue. What makes it worse is everyday citizens' outlook and opinions on these people, often paying no mind at best, or being judgmental or prejudiced at worst. Having been homeless before as a young child, it's a situation to look at with empathy and compassion and a lack of judgment. And in all honesty, even one houseless person is too many. I personally believe it is a human right.
 - Over the last few years it has become more common to see more homeless people throughout downtown. With the rising prices and low opportunities, way of life has been extremely construed. It has become more common to see crime and violence in the downtown area. Times are getting tougher, but we need to do more as a city and a community to help each other through these awful times.
 - Homeless people can be found in most areas, the shelters can fill quickly, and the ones with congregate rooms are not always safe.
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- Help them to help themselves
 - I have slept outside for the better part of a year
 - There are a lot of invisible homeless people and hardly any support for any of them.
 - The worst aspect of homelessness is it takes a blight of humanity and ostracizes people for a lack of resources stemming from the society we live in. I am fortunate enough to have a safety net, and be privileged with wealth while 90% of others are not afforded those same luxuries.
 - The homeless population has increased tremendously recently. It's a difficult issue, as these people need help but it's also no fun to be harassed when you're trying to walk to work daily.
 - You can't go walking anywhere in the city without being asked for money. Home prices have skyrocketed so much that locals can no longer afford housing in our area.
 - I am a psych nurse and a large amount of my patients are homeless
 - Any casual observer who has lived in the Roanoke area for more than 5 years can see that there has been a huge influx of homelessness in our area
 - They are out and about at all times. I am not speaking on the panhandlers which the city needs to address either. They are all around Valley View mall area and some of their stories are incredibly heartbreaking.
 - As I stated previously some that are homeless don't have to be it's of their choosing. However whatever the reason it is a problem when they take up residence on city streets and it's not fair to homeowners or renters to have to deal with it.
 - Roanoke has come so far in the last few years to bring in tourism. I've noticed the up tic in people panhandling and the trash they leave. It trashes Roanoke up.
 - There's a homeless shanty behind Kroger's by the Airport and I'm sure elsewhere in Roanoke
 - The amount of homeless seems to have tripled in the last few years. Everywhere you go in town or along major roads you seem makeshift campsites or homeless panhandlers. No one should have to live like that.
 - I have seen homeless people nearly freezing to death in winter. It's a very serious issue that needs to be addressed. No one should have to fend for themselves on the streets or the wilderness around the shopping areas because rent is too high.
 - They're fucking everywhere and ruining our parks with feces and urine.
 - You truly cannot go far in the city without seeing a homeless person so it is a huge issue. As a resident it is not that I am bothered by seeing a homeless person, but the type of behavior and risks that come from a lot of them.
 - I believe that the amount of people that are currently homeless in Roanoke constitutes a serious issue.
 - See previous comment about Roanoke being the beacon for the transient population of a third of VA. Stop the exportation of homeless to Roanoke. SW Virginia counties have been doing it for decades.
 - I see more people panhandling in the city and rents have skyrocketed in the city. Folks are struggling to make ends meet. My rent when I arrived in Roanoke was \$365.00 a month. Now it is nearing the \$1200.00 mark for folks who do not own a home now.
 - .
 - Notice there are lot of homeless people
 - Their are homeless in every area of roanoke
 - All humans deserve a home.
 - I see a large number of homeless individuals. It is a problem, not because these individuals are dangerous, but because they need to be provided with resources to help them get back on their feet.
 - There are people who would rather sleep on the streets than go to the misssion that's full of drugs. There's not enough resources for the people that need it.
 - Walked along Walnut Ave under the 581 overpass and there were 3 homeless people and the area was covered in trash. It is a quick turnoff to the area. There are also a number of homeless and panhandlers near the off ramp from Hershberger merging onto Aviation Dr.
 - We've seen this be very high profile recently in the downtown area. Generally homelessness is going to continue to be an increasing issue as long as income inequality increases and housing costs also increase. I see no signs of those trends slowing and we need to get in front of it now.
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- Too many homeless are ones that want to be living on the streets. They love it. Education is needed. For all of us. How to react to them. How to get them flowing back into society doing a job worthwhile. Even more police needed. Panhandling should not be allowed.
 - Does not impact our daily lives
 - You see people everywhere sleeping in parks and in areas with trees
 - Roanoke being revitalized and getting a facelift has been awesome, but I worry that that means big rent increases and less housing options for lower incomes.
 - Have been homeless for 2yrs now
 - <https://oecdscope.blog/2021/12/13/finlands-zero-homeless-strategy-lessons-from-a-success-story/> Homelessness is always an issue.
 - There are unsheltered camps on roadsides that leave many vulnerable. Not everyone can access the Rescue mission.
 - Any houseless people in a city shows a failure of that cities leaders to provide
 - I have been seeing more and more people on the streets with housing vouchers but can find a place still
 - I work downtown, live in Old Southwest, so I either drive, bike, or walk downtown every single week. I deal with transient folks and talk with them on my way and at work. I offer DRI's homeless resources map at work.
 - Downtown Roanoke is a particular eyesore in some areas and has spread its grasp to outlying areas with homeless encampments in tree lines or by the river.
 - There are men women and children homeless throughout every part of the city. And I consider the people living in hotels and cars to be homeless.
 - There are homeless asking for money on every corner. They congregate in areas, leaving behind trash. There is nowhere for them to go during the day.
 - The cost of living vs incomes have gotten out of hand forcing many people on the street. I know many individuals homeless from such an issue
 - I see it everywhere.
 - No one should have to explain it. Get in a car and ride around the city.
 - I and many people I know are at risk of being homeless. Most of Roanoke is a layoff away from loss of housing.
 - I myself am holding on by my nails because I make 1057 and 700 is rent
 - Any day of the week you could walk through downtown and see around 2-5 people in need of support (shelter, food, mental health, healthcare) that have no path forward. Roanoke is much better than many cities, though an approach of shelters, food and targeted public mental health assistance could likely help in a big way for both those individuals needing assistance and the comfort of people experiencing downtown Roanoke.
 - There are a lot of homeless population or panhandlers
 - My understanding is that we have the only shelter on our coast that doesn't do background checks, and it's well known in homeless communities across the country, causing people to come here and communities to mass transit homeless folk here.
 - It's a moral imperative. Our city only excels when EVERYONE is working to make it great.
 - Humans need basic housing, healthy food, help finding/keeping employment, medical treatment, social education and specifically with government and/or secular means.
 - The many homeless I've encountered working on williamson scarcely had a substance abuse issue, they never asked me if we were hiring either unfortunately. Anecdotal evidence sure but there were dozens daily.
 - In the supposedly most advanced, freest, richest country on earth, it is a crime beyond belief that a single person sleeps outside not of their own choice. Full stop.
 - Homelessness is increasing and evictions or non renewal of leases are also increasing. The rental market has few to no affordable units. Many people are one pay check away or one traumatic experience away to being at risk of homelessness.
 - Stop making it comfortable to be homeless in Roanoke.
 - A life long resident of Roanoke city I have never seen such a large number of panhandlers and people living in tent cities. Unfortunately I believe some of the panhandlers are scam artists.
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- There are many homeless people located throughout Roanoke. A lot of them stand in the middle of intersections asking for money. I encountered one person downtown while I was going to a museum and helped them out by giving them money and bringing them food and necessities. These people really need a place where they can stay that is safe, and have access to resources such as healthcare, mental health services, and employment assistance.
 - There are homeless everywhere you look in Roanoke. We really need to look into providing more mental health services.
 - Roanoke has always been a dumping ground for other cities so this is nothing new. Especially now however there is a much larger population out of covid
 - Homeless people harass me every time I go downtown.
 - I have and am on my way to being homeless. Rental criteria is too strict. Regardless of credit score we need places to live.
 - I have lived in both urban and rural areas. I have never seen the amount of homelessness for such a small area as I have in Roanoke. I don't think I have gone a day living here I haven't encountered a homeless individual.
 - If anyone is homeless, we have a very serious issue.
 - We see it on every street corner and empty lot
 - Anyone who thinks the homelessness in Roanoke is "out of control" has never been anywhere more populated than Roanoke
 - Need clean up areas within the city. As a parent of a 5 year old. there are times when I do not like my daughter or my wife out and about because of the folks. Folks need a curfew or something with in the city.
 - There are people everywhere downtown, they may not be asking for anything but it's bad
 - Roanoke seems to have higher percentage of homeless than most cities.
 - The homeless need places yo stay during the day. They are scattered about in the city
 - I work at lowes by hersherberger. We have an encampment behind the store. People flying into roanoke see the homeless city as they land. The street corners are filled with panhandlers, parking lots are patrolled by people asking for handouts.
 - Shelter should be a human right
 - During these economic times, no one should be without! No matter the age, the race, the education or any other situation should human beings be lacking adequate accommodations.
 - It's 2022. No one should be homeless.
 - You cannot stroll downtown without being solicited aggressively. This drives some percentage of business away, by default.
 - EVERY STREET CORNER IN DOWNTOWN, OUT TO VINTON AND GOING TOWARDS SALEM AND BACK OVER INTO ROANOKE COUNTY NOW HAS SOMEONE HOMELESS HOLDING SIGNS.
 - It's a very prevalent issue
 - You all used to have an apartment building located across from the community hospital for the homeless now the elder lives in it.
 - It's as if it's an invisible pandemic and we treat them as they are not part of our society.
 - The city criminalizing sleeping on the street downtown coupled with the closing of the Days Inn has sent the homeless population into SE. When the police are called to help with the resulting disturbances, they don't come.
 - Most of the "homeless" asking for money are being bussed into the city.
 - Rental prices are going up but the job market is not raising salaries. Homelessness is going to continue to rise without proper and easier assistance to remain in a home.
 - I see individuals who are homeless on a daily basis when driving around town.
 - I live in southeast I have for 21 years this December and for the first time about 6 months ago I began to worry about my safety in my home. There are people visibly drugged out walking up the street you can't leave anything outside for fear of it being stolen.
 - they are everywhere you turn. it is especially becoming a problem on the medians at the street lights
 - People are suffering out on the streets every day while rich people pay little taxes. Where is our humanity? We must help them and stop being so selfish.
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- Homelessness is a serious issue in every city. I don't feel like Roanoke is worse or better than other comparable cities. All People deserve safe, stable housing.
 - Any amount of homelessness is absolutely unacceptable and should be addressed with immediate care and concern
 - Homelessness exploded during Covid, and I have only seen the amount of people in the camp by the mall increase and those who hang out around the Rescue Mission as well.
 - I do not believe anyone should be homeless
 - It's important because it's completely unnecessary. The money is just going in the all the wrong places.
 - There are homeless people everywhere and they get little to no help. Part of this is because they don't know of the services that can help them. This can be fixed.
 - I see them everywhere
 - As an underpaid single mother with 2 jobs in the 1970's, I was very near homelessness when I was unable to meet my mortgage obligations and my home went into foreclosure. My depression led to a suicide attempt.
 - There are certainly homeless people in the city. I do not know their circumstances, so it's hard to say why they are homeless. But it would be nice if they had access to free/low cost housing that is also well connected to public transport to help get them back on their feet.
 - The amount of homeless folks is disproportionate to the size of the city
 - I work in law enforcement and routinely make contact with individuals that are homeless. Most of the time they set up camps in the woods or under bridges but often hang out near buildings downtown.
 - There are homeless people in the area who are truly a victim of the system. They are good people who try to live their life the right way but with limited income, being elderly and also possibly with mental health problems, they don't have the resources to find a home. The process to even qualify and possibly find something is so extensive that it leaves many feeling hopeless and they give up.
 - I wouldn't say it's very serious but on its way there. There are plenty of areas in the city that people just flat avoid to keep away from the homeless, especially at night. Examples are the town center area around the airport, downtown near the former Campbell court over to the new bus station, and near almost all the highway exits.
 - It's a very serious issue no matter how many people are homeless
 - People who are truly homeless is a problem but the people who need mental health treatment, addiction treatment, and less monetary assistance so they are not lazy and easily become dependent on the system.
 - While we have homelessness we don't have the gigantic city problem of infinite homeless people many of whom were dropped there from other states. It's still an important problem that needs addressing, especially with current inflation rates making it harder for people to find a place to stay.
 - You cannot go into the market without being harassed by panhandlers and addicts. There are many shanty towns all around Roanoke filled with litter and little care for the surrounding environment. To say it's not an issue is an egregious understatement. The majority of these people are not the mentally ill, but people who refuse to participate in society and still want to reap the benefits.
 - I am not homeless but I assume homelessness is a very serious issue for people who are.
 - Homelessness is around and many people are in the edge of turning homeless. Rent prices are getting higher and higher
 - It seems like more people than ever are struggling with homelessness or risk of homelessness, and there seem to be very few programs in place that can help them. Those experiencing homelessness are left with nowhere to go, and this can be seen all over the city.
 - Everywhere you look in downtown Roanoke you can find someone homeless. We need to create more affordable housing to insure they can pay their rent each month. With the cost of living increasing it's even hard for me to pay bills and buy groceries or even gas to make sure I can keep my job just to get to the next paycheck and I make \$20 an hour. Being a single mother or father is a struggle in itself with childcare expenses. I could keep going with what is wrong with the government and give my opinion on how to help, but who will listen to a person that works paycheck to paycheck.
 - If you're homeless, it's a very serious issue for most people.
 - No human should ever have to sleep outside. Shelter (with heat), a bed, and running water are basic human rights, especially for those suffering from mental illness and substance abuse.
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- Can't go anywhere without being accosted by homeless drug addicts. Roanoke is not a safe place
- Homeless people are everywhere in the city and surrounding areas
- While the total number of homeless individuals is not at a level I would consider to be severe, it is clearly a problem in this city.
- City Council has done nothing to help or prevent homelessness in the City.
- Homelessness affects the whole community, from home value to environment health to tourist opportunities. Everyone is affected as it causes strain and financial hardship on our society.
- People don't want to be homeless but what nowhere to go
- I used to live on Kirk, rented the parking garage and never felt safe after dark. The trash, and human waste is appalling. Why
- Homelessness is a policy choice on the part of local and state governments. The City of Roanoke has enough money and resources to solve the problem, if these resources would be directed appropriately.
- They are humans that need help, not enabling. It's only a matter of time before one of them is blamed for something awful.
- I see them every day as I go to work and drive home.
- Drugs, sex trafficking, human waste on streets, & other public health issues are SERIOUS.
- We have a large visible homeless population, those of whom clearly need a lot of help.
- It's extremely serious for those that are homeless in our area and it's an incredibly difficult thing to recover from once experienced
- Freaky, there are homeless everywhere in Roanoke.
- A single person living on the street is a community issue and requires a community response. We are failing our neighbors. Our kin.
- I feel unsafe around the amount of homeless people in the city. A lot of time they harass me for money while downtown and it makes me not want to be there especially after dark.
- Homelessness is very serious for those who are living through it. They suffer with the insecurity of health problems, joblessness, etc every day
- I visit other larger cities frequently and they don't have close to the level of problem as Roanoke. Also, I don't want to take my kids to places like the city market because of all of the creepy people who hang out in the front. I stopped working downtown partially because the parking garages felt unsafe and I saw someone defecate on the steps of my office building at 9am on a workday. It just seems out of control here.
- Homelessness continues to increase in our city. Roanoke is a great place to live but especially if we take care of ALL our citizens. More and more tents are popping up around the city and that shows people are struggling. We need to find ways to help these people effectively.
- This city is too small to justify having a homeless population that is this large.
- People exaggerate how extreme homelessness is in Roanoke.
- Any homeless existing is a serious problem. Many claim America is a "Christian" nation while turning their backs on the homeless.
- Speaking from the perspective of someone who is middle class and has not been at risk for homelessness.... It is just depressing to go anywhere in Roanoke now. There are panhandlers at every intersection, people passed out in the grass outside of Chic-fil-A or the park, strangers sleeping on the porches of abandoned houses, garbage everywhere, people approaching you to ask for money outside of every convenience store. It is damn near impossible to exist in this city without seeing or being affected by these things. I live near some of the poorer households in the city. Just living in this neighborhood puts folks at a higher risk of being a victim of certain crimes, regardless of their income. Random people walking the neighborhood at night are perfectly happy to come on to your porch, kick down your door, or break in to your car to take your stuff. The longer our government allows this to go on, the fewer high income people are going to want to buy houses here. As much as I want to purchase a house in the city in the next few years, I don't want to spend the rest of my life being a victim of petty theft, breaking and entering, or begging/panhandling.
- While most homeless I've come across (downtown mostly) are nice and just trying to get by, I'm also tired of being yelled at, followed, and scared to step on needles at this point or exposed to other drug paraphernalia. I always wanted to exercise on the greenway until I heard the horror stories of how some homeless act around there and what they leave after they're done. I decided it wasn't worth it before I

even began, so I've just never stepped foot there. People shouldn't be afraid to go to public parks because of things like this. I feel for the homeless, but it's also incredibly off-putting that the rest of us can't just have a nice day anymore and have to go out of our way to find somewhere else.

- There are people living on the streets, sleeping on the streets. Drugs play a huge part.
 - There is insufficient mental health assistance in the Roanoke valley. Now, Caroline is postponing the rehab portion of the project, which proves that no one gives a darn about the mentally ill. Come on over to SE ROANOKE streets, hang out, really take the time to look and listen to the pedestrians and maybe you'll educate yourselves on schizophrenia, bipolar, drug addiction, etc. I have lots more to say, but I'll refrain as I am wasting my time because I live in SE ROANOKE and not South Roanoke.
 - Anyone not having shelter, especially during extreme weather, is a serious issue.
 - The homeless try to hide as best they can, it's not their fault. How many of us are one paycheck away from being homeless? I'm at risk myself. I'm selling all material possessions to move into a tent or sleep in my vehicle. The odds are stacked against the common folk, I'm done paying taxes against my will and getting nothing in return.
 - There are very few homeless shelters/programs in the city. Very few organizations who are actually able to help. Mental health and substance abuse is a major issue that contributes to the homeless issue.
 - I think it's serious as there are no good shelters here.
 - Agencies are seeing increases in clients ready to lose their housing or on the streets. We are seeing increasing numbers of people who are hungry. We are also seeing increases in tents and outdoor homeless due to substance abuse issues, mental health issue. Fixed income and disabled individuals are unable to maintain their housing due to inflation.
 - Since the Ramada closed my neighborhood is full of homeless people
 - I know a lot of people that refuse to even come downtown anymore due to being harassed, yelled at from across the street for money. When telling them sorry or only have my card, they tell you where the ATMs are. Some are very aggressive. Some ask for money for food, when offering to buy them dinner/lunch often a vulgar sometimes a vulgar response is given. Since being mostly removed from in front of the Church Ave Garage, they now are over by the MLK Bridge (on and under) and when walking it you see signs of drug and alcohol use, feces and signs of drug use in the stairways of the Gainsboro garage. Also more recently on First, Kirk, and Church.
 - We have a rapidly growing homeless population in the area do to limited access to mental health resources, rising housing costs, and limited "safe" housing.
 - Homeless are everywhere. Crime is up, drug use is up. Other cities don't let homeless camp out all over the place like Roanoke. Can't even go to center in the Square with out beggars all over.
 - All homelessness is serious. This is a failing on our society and we should be helping those who need it the most.
 - I've been homeless 3 times in the past.
 - See the camps all over. People living under bridges etc. Shameful .
 - We have the means to help people. We instead choose to punish them.
 - Just based on their presence. Not *everywhere*, but enough that they are noticed.
 - We work full time jobs, and we are 1-2 paychecks away from being homeless at any time.
 - There are homeless people EVERYWHERE. They have no where to go and sit on the sidewalk and do drugs during the day.
 - Seems like it's increasing weekly
 - I've seen more people creating their own shelters around the city than before the pandemic.
 - By day they can be seen at every major intersection in Roanoke and in the evening they litter our street with trash and drug paraphernalia. Every week when I mow my yard I find everything from discarded clothes, alcohol bottles, and used baggies of drugs.
 - Homelessness is a very serious issue in Roanoke. It is evident by the amount of people carrying everything they own throughout the day- very obvious in SE and Downtown.
 - These people need help and they aren't getting it
 - I have seen a couple individuals sleeping on the sidewalks since moving to Roanoke in April, but compared to other similar sized cities the problem is not as prevalent or maybe not as visible?? I don't see "camps" around town either.
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- I see them camping out in the woods and trashing up everything around them. Our neighborhood had some relocated there recently and theft became rampant. We were the ones who needed help to install anti-theft devices around our property. They were given a free ride by the city and what happened to the property they were allowed to live in. They destroyed it!
 - I grew up here in Roanoke, but have lived in cities, like Boulder CO and Knoxville TN, and the homeless population is much higher in those cities than here. However; the homeless population has grown here exponentially in the last 10 years.
 - The amount of people who live in squalor rather than become unhoused is massive. There are young professionals crammed into tiny apartments to reduce the skyrocketing cost of rent. Landlords are cutthroat and sometimes charge extra for appliances like refrigerators and stoves. As long as this keeps happening, the unhoused population will continue to increase.
 - It is a major concern among citizens, I hear people talking about it all the time. Also, the increase recently has been dramatic. No matter what part of Roanoke you are in, you will see signs of homelessness, it is not contained to downtown or near the Rescue Mission anymore.
 - I see homeless people and/or their belongings around childrens parks regularly. Tents set up all over, sitting at intersections panhandling. The homeless people congregating along Jamison and Elm ave.
 - I travel a lot and our homeless issues are not as bad as some cities but is better than others.
 - Environmental safety
 - I live at Gramercy Row on Williamson and Tazewell. I have experienced a significant increase in the homeless over the past 6 months. It is very obvious that they are on drugs and some are even hostile. I am a young, single woman who leaves for work very early and comes home late. The amount of confrontations I have experienced are scary. Anything from asking for money, commenting on my appearance inappropriately to verbal assault. I cannot even throw my trash out without a confrontation anymore. It is going to be DANGEROUS if these individuals do not get the care and support they desperately need.
 - Everywhere I go, I see panhandling. SW county, Roanoke City, NW, SE and NE.
 - I'm not sure if our rates of homeless are higher than other cities, but I see and interact with people who are homeless every single day. Not to sound heartless, but I don't have the ability to help every person. I get asked for handouts often three or four times a day. I already run a food pantry and soup kitchen at my church. So, I'm at a loss for how to be a bigger help. We need more programs that actually help individuals find mental health specialists, rehab facilities, employment, and housing so that the problem can actually be solved.
 - The communities they build are not sanitary and spread disease
 - There is constant panhandling. They gather on the streets at night.
 - City policy appears to be "Othering" those that are homeless. Making it easier to impose harsh laws and regulations upon. The policies are not helping but perpetuating the current situation.
 - The amount of homeless that congregate in public areas, especially ones openly doing drugs, seems to have increased massively in the past few years.
 - One of my friends was homeless for over a year, the problem is appalling and its hard to get out of it
 - I see homeless every day. The drug problem in this city doesn't help, and these people need help.
 - You can't drive 2 blocks in most parts of town without seeing someone in need.
 - A city resident cannot drive down any major street without someone standing in the median or at the corner with a sign asking for help. It is dangerous for the homeless person, it is dangerous for the city resident.
 - Roanoke is ass backwards on this like many other things. Unless you are a woman with a child, real help is not there, and even then it's a struggle.
 - Those who are unhoused deserve to be appreciated for who they are.
 - Families and single people have been going through extremely difficult times right now in the middle of this pandemic numbers of homeless people have gone way up from when I was growing up here and it's a shame people need help and for the most part everyone turns a blind eye to these people.
 - Been homeless in Roanoke. Was not fun.
 - I don't really see too much of it, but I know at certain areas it can be a problem.
 - From the current appearance of the city, there should be a billboard on 581 that says "Welcome to Roanoke.....Home of the homeless"
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- The economy continues to fail the lower class, rent continues to increase with no increase in provided services or security of home access
- Significant increase in Unsheltered across the City
- People has got to want to work
- Allowing people to suffer unsheltered and unsupported is cruel and depraved. When there are empty houses on every block, it is shameful to turn your eye from the pain homeless Americans face.
- Too many folks sleeping in doorways, public areas, etc.
- People are losing their homes and having to figure stuff out because there is no where to go
- I see people being evicted and becoming homeless. I see homeless people every single day. I see people begging for food and cash every single day. This is a HUGE issue in Roanoke! I personally am disabled and live in a run down trailer with a hole in my roof. Rotten walls with black mold. No money and no help to fix things. I am personally very close to homelessness myself because of these issues.
- there are homeless people all over Roanoke. having recently moved here from a bigger city with apparently less of a homeless population, it's hard to see the amount of homeless people wandering around as "normal"
- I know from experience.
- When need to know how many of these people actually want help.
- Besides seeing camps set up along the roads in the city and pan handlers on every corner, there are very few affordable housing options anywhere. Even employed people can't afford a place to live here. Many are one paycheck away from a friend's couch.
- You can't drive anywhere without panhandling or seeing someone sleeping on the side walk or off in the woods
- I've lived in Roanoke for 20+ years and never seen it so bad. Rents are out of whack compared to wage levels.
- I see the homeless everywhere
- It's embarrassing how little it seems like Roanoke is doing to address the issue. Every few months, the city is tearing down a building being used by the homeless, breaking up camps, etc. But there are no solutions like new shelters, modifying zoning laws to permit multifamily housing, encouraging the development of low-income housing, rather than luxury apartments. More and more people will begin experiencing homelessness as our economy worsens and prices increase, and there are already a lot of people struggling.
- The safety of everyone is an issue. I take an early morning walk on the Greenway a few times each week. It is not uncommon to find people sleeping, under bridges, in picnic shelters, or on benches, even on cold mornings. I have had experiences with no fewer than 3 on the Greenway that were emotionally unstable. I have even been personally threatened for just walking past them. The city parks are scary some mornings. Many of the city and county intersections have panhandlers despite the signage. The panhandlers are in high-traffic areas that pose a danger to themselves and drivers. I regularly see police cars in traffic at these intersections but the homeless population must be too large for them to make an impact or police presence is ignored. The wooded areas around shopping centers are visibly trashed where they congregate.
- A significant portion of the homeless in the city are not from the Roanoke area.
- Homeless people push away tourism and shopping in the downtown area and add that to businesses recovering from COVID it, homelessness adds to pushing money away from the city.
- The homeless aren't a monolith. There are a variety of factors that contribute to the reasons behind their homelessness. Some choose to be homeless, others are because of economic reasons, others because of health or mental reasons, and others due to a combination of all these and then some. It's important to understand the root causes of the majority of the problems and address those. As we cultivate our downtown areas and redevelop old buildings into new and exciting places for people to come and enjoy and stimulate the economy, it can be a hindrance to those efforts if it seems that the very places we are developing seem unsafe to go to and/or cause worry in customers that they will be solicited by the homeless. How do we treat the homeless with respect, give them the services they need, while not enabling or perpetuating the problem so as to continue making Roanoke a place people will feel comfortable visiting/living in at any time of day and in any area?
- Living on the streets creates risk for the unsheltered as well as citizens who come into contact with them. Citizens have been attacked or harassed by the mentally ill who reside on the streets and have not

received treatment. Homeless people have been attacked and preyed upon by others due to vulnerability and lack of security. Allowing people to live on the streets creates the impression that the City is okay with ignoring and neglecting people in need.

- Roanoke offers very little affordable living.
 - Homelessness is visible to anyone who travels around the city/surrounding area..
 - Everyone deserves a place where they are safe and treated with dignity. Anyone living without shelter, should have resources available to them to get them into clean safe housing. Those with mental health and drug related problems should be able to get counseling and treatment that will provide hope in order to break the cycles they are stuck in. People with disabilities should not be forced out onto the street because they cannot work.
 - Most every quadrant of Roanoke and Salem now have intersection and traffic light beggars and shopping cart encampments.
 - We just moved from NW to SE and the amount of homeless individuals is INSANE. No one should have to go without shelter. It's getting colder and I can't imagine having to find shelter in the street or in an abandoned building.
 - We need to help people who are homeless due to no reason of their own. It can be a temporary issue that can be solved.
 - Homelessness is a serious issue in California. We are not there yet but we do need to take control of the situation so it does not spiral out of control
 - I work with many people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Once they find what seems like "stable" housing, it seems that they are once again at risk of losing their home and this causes significant trauma, anxiety, depression, and multiple issues layered on top of the homelessness issue.
 - It's sticking to see them begging for money & if you try to help & it's not money they get angry. We don't want this in our city.
 - it's common knowledge people move to Virginia because it's easier to get their SSI and Medicaid as compared to other states. And since Covid there has been such an influx of Non-residents moving here because it's easier to Panhandle because we have no real plan to address it
 - Noticed more and more over past 4 years, camps everywhere and people sleeping at parks, on benches, on the ground!
 - I come from DC, per capita there are less issues here
 - It is dangerous to be homeless. It is bad for your health. It is frustrating for all citizens. It's a vicious circle to get caught up in.
 - It's dangerous for everyone to live on the streets. The homeless are not living in safe, clean environments. They do not readily have access to necessities. They get turned away and written off as drug users.
 - I have experienced homelessness first hand
 - I come from a large city with a nearly 10,000 homeless population. So Roanoke doesn't seem too bad, but it will become an issue if it isn't continually addressed. Panhandlers are more of a problem to me personally.
 - Homelessness will always remain a serious issue as long as someone is sleeping outside without stable roof over their heads. Homelessness has always been downplayed and neglected in the community by the general population due to comfort of residents. When attitudes and actions from the general public change to become a majority where everyone is acting to help, this issue will begin to progress to not a serious issue.
 - Roanoke has become overrun with homeless people. They are EVERYWHERE
 - Walk around downtown Roanoke and see how many used needles you can find just laying on the ground. Elm Ave beside the Exxon, the wooded area has been taken over. The property behind Lowes on Rutgers is known as "The Hobo Hilton". Hell, sheets is going to tear down the store at Williamson/Orange because of theft and beggars.
 - I've lived in Roanoke for 50 years and never seen it so bad.
 - A ride through South East goes a long way to explaining how this is a very serious issue. We're dealing with medieval conditions out there (public defecation/urination, drug use, etc).
 - We have a serious homelessness issue that is disproportionate to how small our city is. I am a community health worker. I am seeing this problem getting worse as rents
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- I feel like the homeless population is being pushed to sleep in more dangerous spots due to closing places some could afford
 - The city needs to help fund the Rescue Mission... they do such a wonderful job - efficient, and organized and rehabilitating.
 - People that work hard have to suffer because of people that are lazy.
 - There is lots of homeless and they are at the gas station begging for money and at grocery stores also and they get mean if you say no
 - Tent etc are everywhere downtown, SE and is spreading. Panhandlers are on every intersection city and county wide and is dangerous
 - The number of homeless encampments has increased and also there seems to be a numerous amount of people begging for money a lot within the city. Not sure how many of these people represent the homeless community but noticed this has increased tremendously.
 - We have a lot in the city, but not as bad as larger cities.
 - Everywhere in Roanoke, especially Valley View Blvd, there are always homeless people living in a wooded area or begging for money. There is not enough help for the homeless and I feel like the government does not want to help or care.
 - Too many people begging at stop lights in the median. The Crossroads area and area near the airport and Sam is devastated. Full of trash and food carts and clothing and plastic bags.
 - I see people walking in my residential area at 11pm and later with backpacks or rolling suitcases even a guy pushing a trash can. Sometimes there on bikes with a cart behind. More than once there seen at the church pavilion down the street sleeping on the picnic tables or the ground.
 - The panhandlers are dangerous. The homeless make a mess anywhere they camp. They steal and leave their drug paraphernalia everywhere. Who would want to call this home?
 - Homelessness is a serious issue. I have been a Social Worker for 30 years . I have seen people with disabilities that have no income or get SS disability that make 735 a month . There is not enough low income income housing for anyone that lives on that amount a month . The housing for these people living in this income bracket is a lot of times not suitable to live in. Then you have the population of people with no income that do not qualify for disability or have background issues keeping them from gaining employment and housing . People that do work often can not afford housing due to their incomes. If people do not have a place to live to get proper sleep and a shower /food how are they going to find gainful employment and move forward. The people with Mental Health issues often can not stay in the shelters due to their Mental Health which puts them on the street. We need to create more temporary housing and provide better assistance to getting services so that they can find employment or get the other needed services. This population does lack family support sometimes due to their Mental Health or their past choices.
 - There are increasing numbers of unsheltered homeless people all around the Valley. Income inequality and high rents continue to make the problem worse. Lack of rental units for low-income households is a huge problem.
 - I see families everyday with nowhere to go. Children need a place to stay. People in dumpsters, crimes being committed because people are hungry and have nothing.
 - There are people here who don't have homes - anytime that happens, it's a very serious issue.
 - There are homeless camps all over the city. If we were able to provide more assistance these would go down
 - There are people coming to Roanoke from other localities. Once they arrive, they learn that the area shelters have rules they don't/can't/won't follow, so they begin living in one of the numerous encampments throughout the valley. They will tell you they took a bus from x location. Roanoke should not bear the burden of a lack of services in other areas. This needs to be addressed. Turn off the spigot and help area families who may be experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
 - While there has been some success in getting many into permanent stable housing, the need continues to grow in the community from those needing help. Some come from other areas to Roanoke for the opportunity to access more services. Any time we have a neighbor who has nowhere to go for shelter or perceives that there is nowhere to go, it is a serious issue which is not entirely defined by numbers.
 - I lived in Southwest Roanoke and witness many homeless individuals living in abandoned buildings.
 - Working in Human Services and seeing this daily it is a big problem. People cannot afford to live
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- The thing is some of the homeless don't want to use their money who get a check a month for shelter they rather have drugs and alcohol
 - We see apparent homeless people every day and in large numbers. Every person deserves some place to live.
 - See my comments above and below
 - It is getting worse around town, the camps are getting bigger every year.
 - the streets are populated with the homeless
 - I've been working in homeless services for ten years. The rents are through the roof with no end in sight and no incentive to keep them lower. The one shelter is private and we need a city run shelter that does case management.
 - Roanoke seems to have a very high amount of homeless population that come from surrounding rural areas
 - Even before the C Pandemic, there were many encampments of unhoused people in Southeast Roanoke. Albemarle Ave. SE is one route often used to get from 9th St to downtown. The numbers of congregant unhoused people were and are staggering. Now that (COVID) rent assistance for under employed persons and families has ended, more are on the streets, with rising rents as well. Even one person without a secure place to stay is A SERIOUS ISSUE!
 - It is devastating to anyone. It can easily kill an old person.
 - Anywhere in the country we have people and families living on the street or in their cars, homelessness is already a serious issue. And with rising prices on everything, the expense of college and limited jobs/companies not paying workers living wages, homelessness is on the rise. This problem is only getting worse.
 - Homelessness is created by bad government and government is not doing the job it has been elected to do
 - Finding out what are their challenges. Finding out what will help them start their recovery process.
 - I just see more people begging on medians and growing camps around the city
 - I've witnessed firsthand an astonishing number of people living under bridges and in the tunnel across from the hospital. The numbers were really mind blowing.
 - There's a homeless person every time I get in car, on corners, under bridges, in the bushes, at street lights for help and change, all surrounding the mission and they suppose to help but everyone is always crowded out front, starting to see family's even with children who helpless, Roanoke has always been a team of support but there isn't any yet. Help these people so there will be cleaner streets air and places people will not mind stopping by
 - Businesses are being impacted. Residents Security and Safety are compromised.
 - I feel the severity of the problem fluctuates fully, but wherever people have despair or peril from their situation, it's utmost in communal priority.
 - You see homeless people everywhere, almost every vacant house in SE has squatters.
 - Housing is a human right and basic need
 - Whenever an individual is facing housing/food insecurities and basic healthcare, it is a serious issue.
 - And I see people on the street now next to Valley View in the airport sleeping out there in the woods down here in Salem we got him sleeping now along the creek y'all need to wake up and check things out
 - Most homeless have resources if they aren't too addicted, mentally ill to access them sadly policies of harsh punishment from Fed level downward has left the poor, low middle class unable to afford decent housing esp over last 2 years.
 - I see more people that are homeless walking around on the streets and asking for money than I've ever seen before in Roanoke. 460 is especially bad near the Civic Center. Not only do homeless people need to have somewhere to go, the large population makes our entire city look messy around key areas that people visit like the Civic Center
 - Our culture has incentivized reliance on the government by the abdication of the role of the church. The government has filed that vacuum, resulting in more fatherless homes, out of wedlock births, and a basic expectation that government "grants" rights rather than protecting them. People treat the government as God. This, with the rejection of Jesus as Lord, causes homelessness. It's a mental illness that culture has exacerbated.
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- I've lived in high homeless areas as well as small towns with very little. Roanoke has a problem, yes, but I wouldn't call it to big for the city. That said, affordable housing is a very serious need.
 - I'm watching people slowly waste away on the side of the road
 - Downtown, people are harassed on a daily basis. There are also assaults, theft, trespassing, and other small crimes that police and the prosecutor will do nothing about.
 - These are human beings, not an "issue" that needs to be addressed. If it were you, or your family member, what lengths would you go to to make sure they were clothed and fed and cared for every night. If you couldn't afford to take care of them, wouldn't you be grateful to have someone else help you protect and provide basic necessities and help them potentially get a better quality of life?
 - There are homeless people roaming around the edges of our neighborhood and often through it. Sometimes they congregate in large groups. Many look and act like they are abusing substances. I have kids and don't like them riding around the neighborhood on their bikes and such due to this.
 - We have many people sleeping on the street & camping in public places
 - Because of cost of living, and Rent being so High, everywhere.. It is getting harder and harder to feed ourselves and our families.. And the price of Rent going up everywhere.. Most people will choose to feed their family first.. Knowing their rent is due, and They will be kicked out.. If things don't change soon, all of us are going to be Homeless..
 - The issue of homelessness is one that has been ongoing in the City of Roanoke. It hasn't really been addressed in a proper way that is beneficial to those experiencing homelessness or to residents as well.
 - You see it everywhere. When people are allowed to build tents under the bridge at Taubman with recliners and etc you know the problem has reached pitch fever and the City caused this by looking the other way instead of addressing the problem head on. Allowing these homeless populations is not compassionate. It's the opposite. A large percentage of this issue is drugs so law enforcement needs to be doing its job. There is also a racket to this panhandling issue. I watch pimps trade out panhandlers so this isn't just individual homeless people.
 - Have u driven to Vinton lately? I actually saw a homeless man peeing off the curb into the street
 - We treat the homeless inhumanely
 - A lot of people are getting evicted this year compare to any other year.
 - Unfortunately the homeless are all over Se to the Vinton line.. They set fires and destroy others property .
 - I've had several encounters with the homeless population make me feel unsafe. 1. I had a pedestrian charge my car while I was driving 35 mph and had kids in the car. I almost hurt him. Other issues like this continue. I don't feel safe. Shelters exist but there isn't motivation to get clean which is the requirement.
 - Homelessness is creating a scar on the Roanoke experience when folks come into the city. I reroute my travel many times to avoid having to see the liter and mess being created. For example, I avoid the intersection of Orange and Williamson.
 - I live in southeast there at the homeless problem is a very serious.
 - This is about agencies receiving money to spend on themselves.
 - I work in emergency services for the city and have to deal with both the public complaints on the homeless community and the homeless that are continuing to be abused and left on the streets some times to be found in need of medical care.
 - It seems that it's more families struggling ending up in this situation Its not a good look around on the streets
 - They end up in the ER, or Psych hospital just for a place to sleep and eat. Then cause problems where actual sick patients need help. Continuous problem
 - When there are people on every major intersection begging for money, its an issue!
 - Homelessness decreases property value, Increases crime and attractiveness to the city.
 - There are camps all over the city and homeless people stand on every corner, they are the largest drain on the 911 and emergency services in the city. The amount of litter, trash, and waste that is improperly disposed of in these camps is terrible not only for the environment but for the city and the citizens.
 - Imagine all you have is a backpack and maybe 2 pairs of clothes and be told to function normally
 - It needs to be addressed, yes, but there are far more important issues right now
 - Everywhere you look you see it
 - There are always many people wandering the streets at all hours, panhandling at intersections, begging at gas stations, and approaching people in a hateful manner when turned away.
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- Around Williamson road and the airport area
- Because they want to be homeless alot of them riding the program because you keep helping.
- Homelessness isn't taken seriously enough and the stigma it has ensures people don't get the help they need.
- Homelessness is an issue, as is panhandling on the streets and at intersections. I have lived in Roanoke for almost three years. I moved just prior to the pandemic and it's worse than what I saw living 14 years in New York City because it's not as spread out. Drugs - we have to do more.
- Housing is a basic human right. Everyone should have permanent housing,
- Once someone becomes homeless it is extremely difficult to change their situation.
- I'm seeing more homeless people than ever before. Tents are popping up in our area. There is a couple in a rental unit close to me. They lost everything 4 years ago due to drugs, but are still doing drugs. I guess some people never learn.
- Its worse in some areas but overall I'd say affordable housing is the larger issue
- A municipality who outlaws sleeping on sidewalks has a huge problem -- both with numbers of unsheltered persons and with public perception of the problem.
- Homelessness is a serious issue. I have personal experience with the homeless population through former employment and ministry outreach. There are too many incentives for homeless in Roanoke to stay in their situation. They need incentives to return to a productive life and participate in society.
- One person is too much, but Roanoke is a hub for those with mental illness in the area. There are opportunities for work, but not many people are all there mentally. It's hard for those individuals to keep a job and budget well. I see too many homeless on the streets, compared to other cities like LA and New York where there are a lot of homeless, I think the ratio is worse in Roanoke.
- I work in an area where I interact with homeless people often. I feel pain for folks on the medians with signs almost daily. It is a sign of failing systems.
- I live in southeast roanoke. Thre are tons and tons of homeless people in my area they slepp any and everywhere
- Too many pan handlers on street corners. Too many laying around city.
- I see them on the corners at intersections all the time. I want to help them but I'm only one person. I know cold weather is coming in soon and I hate to see people suffering.
- You can see the homeless sleeping on the sidewalks and asking for money on the streetlights. And begging for money in front of Sheetz.
- With rising costs in the city seem housing instability is also on the rise. There are seems to be a steady upward trend of homeless encampments and road side panhandleing. Seems to indicate the problem is in a growth trend.
- I think anyone with open eyes in Roanoke would be able to see how homelessness has affected our community. No person should be forced to sleep outside.
- If you are around downtown or along lower income areas, one sees the problem.
- Brings crime, drugs and filth to the city.
- So many people are without a place to live, elderly, children. Young and old. Drugs are the main cause of what people of Roanoke are going through!!!!
- You can't drive down most streets without being asked for money. I have a small businesses and homeless knock on my customers doors. Scaring them or making them give homey they don't have to give. While I'm working hard to keep my head above water. I understand there are some who have issues but each homeless person should be evaluated and it determined of there issues by a professional, then after assessment provide help. But if it is given and that person does not do what's asked we need seriously think of other ways maybe not jail time but community service. There are camps in our beautiful trees alongside roads no one wants to visit and see that it's trashy they don't even clean these. Thanks for listening
- I moved here 10 years ago and it was rare to see homeless people in the city. Now they are every where ,crime is out of control Roanoke city has went very down hill
- There is currently a homeless man living in the alley behind my house.
- Rents are skyrocketing and evictions are climbing after protections expired. People that weren't unhoused before are much more likely to be. Stop investing in "luxury" apartment complexes at the expense of those that can't afford them. There also need to be more behavioral health crisis stabilization

units, detox housing, and transitional homes for those suffering from mental and substance abuse disorders. More transitional housing options for newly-released inmates.

- I live downtown and see it outside my building every day. For a city this size there is an impeccable number of resources. Many choose homelessness to continue with substance use
 - Being homeless does not necessarily mean living on the street. Due to the pandemic families are living w other families to survive
 - It seems like you see them everywhere now. It's a very sad situation.
 - Being homeless marks the culmination of many bad outcomes, likely across several variables, in one's life. This is likely Not a chosen result for most. I am just as concerned about the individuals who deal with it (and what got them there) as I am about property values and related criminal activity.
 - The human and financial costs of homelessness are ongoing and difficult to escape. I have had skilled, motivated high school students who were on track for a stable career lose their homes and choose incarceration over remaining homeless.
 - Homeless people are seen but there are so many more you don't see. It's sad.
 - We are fortunate to have the Rescue Mission etc that provides shelter. "If you build it they will come." Cities that don't have shelters don't have homeless cuz they don't care. If ppl don't want to help the homeless, then Roanoke is not the city for them. We care about those in need.
 - There's tons of homeless and more arriving every day
 - There isn't enough affordable housing in Roanoke, Va. Alot of the requirements for income isn't realistic for many to secure housing.
 - I was evicted because my apartment was sold during the pandemic
 - You can't swing a dead cat by the tail without hitting a hobo in roanoke
 - The homeless is everywhere. Downtown, at mall, towers, on street intersections, neighborhoods,etc. Such a shame. Image of city is going down. They are at grocery stores, food lion and kroger. Witness one homeless man ride a cart (provided by kroger for their shopping customers) use it to beg for money from patrons entering the store. This was an able body man. Another group of homeless hangs at the Claytor property and hangs across the street from the hotel Roanoke day and night. They literally stalk our homes and in the alley ways. I cN go on and on.
 - I was homeless 5 years ago and used the resources I had to get out of it and stay out of it. A big part of why people stay homeless is the resources don't encourage self reliance or promote progressing beyond the resources they have at hand.
 - They're everywhere
 - They are on every street corner, tent cities around Valley View...
 - Even if it seems moderate it will get worse if neglected
 - I live in SE. Our safety is at risk because no one cares enough to rectify the situation.
 - The rescue mission accrues a lot of homeless people which causes more theft and crimes in Roanoke.
 - As a downtown employee it's sad their are multiple homeless out here eveyday on every block. They are at intersections and half of them have some kind of mental capacity/problem or a drug habit.
 - I work on Franklin road. We have homeless people come in daily to use our facilities. Also one of my co workers just went through a period of homelessness. She stayed at the mission for over 2 months. She had to move from her apartment because it was condemned unfortunately for her several affordable options in the area were going through new ownership and evicted their renters to remodel. This created a rush of people trying to find affordable options. She finally found something last minute but it ended up not being available right away do to renovations and time delays because of product availability. She is finally in her apartment.
 - We have a lot of places that could be rebuilt and be shelters for the homeless and in the colder months still see them outside trying to make it while people are being hateful.I am about to be homeless soon and have looked everywhere and no where I can afford I have no job no car nothing and being kicked out in the cold.
 - There's no good reason why anyone should be homeless in Roanoke other than this city only cares about the money they can make by putting addicts and mentally unstable people in jail.
 - Some people do not want to work, they make more standing on the corner.
 - Homelessness has drastically increased everywhere in Roanoke. There are very few intersections, parks, or practically anywhere downtown without a homeless person asking for money.
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- There are homeless encampments everywhere. There are beggars on every corner. It's unsafe for everyone. It also can hurt businesses.
 - Too many out there needing help. It takes kindness, patience along with resources. Most are in fear.
 - Due to the programs we have and our lack of enforcement for loitering, panhandling, etc, we are quickly attracting homeless from other areas.
 - Homeless people are sleeping all throughout the city. Under bridges, in wooded areas, fix this issue.
 - More and more people are becoming homeless because of the rent increases.
 - Because I see them everyday begging
 - Roanoke has a significant amount of unhoused people, and it is causing other issues such as litter and makes our city seem unsafe to visitors
 - The city doesn't do anything about it, just relying on the Rescue mission
 - Maybe I don't see it enough, but I know it's there. I know about camps in town that are kind of well kept secrets, and I'd rather those people have proper shelter rather than out in the open.
 - It is an issue but not one that will be solved by the government and is only made worse by throwing money at it
 - Roanoke has a lot of homeless
 - I am currently homeless. My social security check is only \$675. There's nowhere to rent for \$400. Also, I have a domestic violence felony and misdemeanor drug possession that prohibits me from qualifying for public housing or section 8
 - Roanoke City is the Homeless capital of Southwest Virginia. Build adequate shelters in other Virginia cities
 - I see homeless people every day. I've sadly just gotten used to it.
 - Just ride downtown or out Williamson Rd. or down Orange ave/ Challenger ave.
 - I'm on the streets as I type this and my main concern is why there's so many young lives on these street why no one is out here trying help them it's sad seeing these young people out here
 - We see them! And they need help!
 - Homelessness is serious for those affected as well as the public image of Roanoke. The more homeless people who are visibly on streets, the less safe residents and tourists feel in the area
 - Homelessness of any level is a serious issue.
 - You see them everywhere.
 - People are on many corners with signs. They even approach us in parking lots and in stores. We offer to buy them food, etc.; but that is not what they want. We know of some who even throw food on the road or sidewalk when gifted to them. They more often want the money for booze and/or drugs.
 - There are homeless people everywhere. This was not the case several years ago
 - It's horrible. It's also not the governments problem to spend my tax dollars on this issue. Make them leave the city because the city will not cater to them.
 - It's seems largely prevalent in Roanok Cityy, there seems to be little support for those facilities that attempt to reach out and encourage those at risk. Local businesses have little support from the city to deter panhandling.
 - Lack of low income housing, scamming landlords, and the closing of the cheaper motels in the area as well as drugs and unchecked mental health has bred homelessness to a severe point and it will only get worse.
 - You're homeless camps all over Roanoke and they leave trash everywhere in the trash or parks they're not accountable if they could get help with drug alcohol and mental illness problems like the rescue mission offers they could get off this cycle of self-destruction
 - I work in an area where the homeless sleep on our porch. We find needles etc
 - I take my granddaughter and neice to the bus stop in the mornings and we see a elder lady wrapped up in a blanket with a pillow just laying on the sidewalk it was very sad to see that
 - There's not enough resources to help people in need
 - Homeless people are sleeping on sidewalks and next to stores down Jamison Avenue. They are piling up thrash and making Roanoke disgusting. They are making me want to leave Roanoke.
 - The homeless are approaching individuals asking for money with the Covid it's very scary it's making the city look bad I have the homeless hanging around sleeping on the side of the curbs and on the benches which is for the public Clean up the beer cans alcohol bottles and needles that are left around
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- I believe that any homelessness with inadequate resources to address them is a serious humanistic problem.
 - There is a noticeable amount of homeless in Roanoke which has caused for buildings to be torn down and relocated. There is a huge need to address this issue.
 - I work in social work and the most common issue the we see is housing needs
 - Working with the homeless as I do, there are many new faces whose names we don't know, who've arrived in Roanoke and come to our shelters
 - The homeless population is significant for a town of our size. People are constantly panhandling all over the city.
 - There are people homeless and at risk of homelessness. Jobs aren't paying enough to survive on to pay all bills, groceries, personal care products, and try to save as well. Then you have children making it more difficult because they need items as well.
 - It's only a problem if you enable it.
 - Would you need this survey if we didn't already know it was a problem
 - I'm approached by homeless individuals on a daily basis downtown asking for money for food or drinks. I've had them sleep on the sidewalk outside my downtown apartment.
 - I have homeless sleeping in the alley behind my house, camping out at my side door, and find used syringes in my yard. Public urination and defecation, threats from panhandlers for not giving money.
 - Homelessness is all over the City. I have seen people sleeping in the Poff Bldg at night when I worked at Verizon. That was before it was changed. I found it rather disconcerting when I would go somewhere and these people would be laying on the floor, looking dead.
 - The amount of people that are in need of assistance can be seen everyday, in all areas of Roanoke. This is not an issue that is part of a certain area. It feels like the city and the county have tried to compartmentalize the issue for a number of years, and now it is too big to fix.
 - There are people in need, but there is a majority of people who do not want to work. They do not want to help themselves. It really isn't a problem for the city, it's a problem for those who want to milk off the government and live off of others who work. There is a population on hard times. They cannot make it and need assistance. But, those people want to get off the government dime. Those people want to be self sufficient. Assurances should be temporary and not a permanent solution.
 - Panhandling is rampant. The existing signs do not detour them at all. People sleeping where they shouldn't. Their mental health issues are not addressed long term. The motel near Williamson Rd and Orange Ave. Days Inn I think is a disaster for drugs, alcohol and prostitution. Some homeless people have died there.
 - Drugs also feed into this but you won't address this issue
 - There's many homeless encampments throughout the city.
 - Ive worked downtown for 10 years. I recognize many of the homeless.
 - Homelessness is dangerous for the unhoused and the community at large. Housing lends stability which in turn leads to jobs.
 - We have many homeless people who take advantage of several of the benefits of the Rescue Mission but who do not "graduate" into self-sufficiency. Some of these recipients remain in the community as squatters and participate in petty crimes (i.e. burglaries, larceny, trespassing, drug violations, etc.). We should not include this segment of the population in the homeless category. These people become informal "residents" who become chronic neighborhood problems, primarily in the Southeast part of town that deteriorate the quality of life for everyone who is trying to raise a family and exist peacefully there.
 - The camps along the greenway/river (along with other areas) are unsettling. These are supposed to be comforting, family areas
 - We have known several homeless or at risk of being homeless families with small children even in our short 5 years here in Roanoke. Homelessness in any degree is a huge issue.
 - I am homeless and nobody will help me
 - The city allows vagrants and homeless to do whatever they want. So they congregate here because there isn't any reprisal.
 - There are homeless everywhere you go! In Roanoke it is becoming more of a problem because there are so many homeless it is overrunning into neighboring towns!! The homeless also like to stand in the streets and be rude to those who will not/can not help them.
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- Know there are people that are living on the street
 - Drive through southeast, the number of people sleeping on the sidewalk or side of stores is shocking.
 - Indigents are on every corner in the city, throwing down trash, begging for money but won't accept work or food. I'm embarrassed to say I live here.
 - It is a multi faceted issue. People who fall on hard times should have the resources available to help them get back on their feet. They should not be allowed to aggressively pan handle and create disturbances with people who live here and visitors to our city. Resources and enforcement would be a great start.
 - Homelessness relates to marginalization, in that it is possible to become invisible in plain sight. When this happens, unless meaningful intervention occurs, people can lose hope altogether, even become desperate, and even those attempting to reach out tend to miss this transition. People become at risk for human trafficking and exploitation while homeless. And no one knows. It's easy for transient people to disappear from their home base.
 - Many homeless would rather live on streets. They need counseling and health care. Some are addicts. Many will not work and some are in need with their mental health. They often do not bathe or use hygiene. Not sure hotels would want folks that may carry vermin on them. Maybe another Open Door Mission would be helpful along with free food and medical. If there are those who want to help themselves and get off the streets and have a better lifestyle then I am all for that.
 - I feel the homeless begging on the corners make our city look undesirable to tourist. This affects our tourism dollars. The homeless population need to not be give free money, but have requirements to meet to receive money. For example, unemployment money is available to people who are actively looking for a job.
 - Many visibly homeless and even more that are housing insecure. Homelessness greatly impacts many and that issue then broadly impacts individuals in many other ways. By better addressing the homelessness issue we will have a better city for all.
 - We cannot keep renovating areas that are homeless Hotspots and expecting them to magically have a place to go the problem will not be fixed by simply pushing them from one community to another without a place to go. Our one homeless shelter is not nearly enough!
 - Every day I am heckled anywhere from 1 to 4 times a day by homeless individuals throughout Roanoke. It is not safe to be un armed in the city at night with the rampant homeless drug usage, which had led to wild behavior amongst several I have seen. This includes shouting matches in the middle of the night around my car, as I wait to pick up my fiancé from work late at night. Often I've been un wantedly approached and vocally pressed for money by a stumbling person who wakes up on the asphalt from a drug induced sleep in the night. This is a safety and human endangerment issue.
 - South East seems to be inundated with them
 - Homeless people are all around our city. Sleeping in doorways, our local parks, along the greenway
 - The city streets and store fronts are loaded with homeless and panhandling. You can't safely drive or shop with out them stepping in front of the cars harassing you. Or getting mad if you can't fill their financial needs. There are some that legitimately go out and work and are trying. Help them. These sitting on our property and destroying our things stealing everything from our city trash cans to using the restroom on our property. Leaving piles of trash on our streets. They need to be put to work or if caught punished. It is the worst it's ever been.
 - Homeless is stealing and trying to live on public land and private homes and land, it makes our city looks trashy
 - Roanoke has a large homeless population. For goodness sakes" Sheetz at will/orange" is relocating because of the issues associated to homelessness. The intersection at orange and williamson is disgraceful. Litter everywhere, always 3-4 people holding signs begging. Small crime is bad in the area. Where is the affordable housing for adults with addiction issues. Most homeless addicts have some criminal background. When the person or if the person is assisted with housing it is too expensive, in the middle of a drug infested community(which prevents the person from beating the drug habit) or the social security they have is not enough to provide them affordable housing if they can pass all the requirements needed for housing. I could go on and on.
 - Across the Roanoke area you can see evidence of homelessness. This can include camping sites, shopping carts lying around, trash build up, etc. Also homeless individuals are walking into the suburbs. There is increased begging for money.
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- The homeless people are everywhere in Roanoke City. I am an old lady driving to work every morning at 5:45, it's scary to have them wandering around or approaching my vehicle. I try to have compassion for the homeless that are there through no fault of their own, but the ones that seem to think that you owe them are growing in numbers. This is not the way to attract people to come to our wonderful city.
 - No one should be homeless.
 - Being in grocery retail I see and deal with the homeless on a daily basis. There are so many homeless just on the northwest quadrant let alone the rest of the city. It is inhumane to not provide for those in need.
 - The democrats feel that give them more for not working and now it has gotten out of hand and when government fails. The police and prisons have been the answer. Quality trades training or college if they can show proficiency for it. They will survive. Life is not for everybody. But as people we should show brotherly love to all. Not hate and bigotry. We as people are about to learn these lessons.
 - Having the largest homeless shelter in the state, and from what I understand the largest on the east coast, individuals are bussed in from all over. The shelter has strict guidelines for individuals to follow, and many haven't measured up to the expectations and have been banned.
 - Panhandlers on every street corner.
 - Roanoke doesn't see the volume of homelessness that some other cities have though it seems to be growing.
 - They are here for free stuff. Stop it.
 - I work in a public library and see first hand that this is a serious issue every day.
 - Homeless people can be seen camping everywhere in Roanoke along with panhandlers on every median at major intersections. Older hotels are turning into crime havens and unsupervised and unmaintained facilities. The irony is that the owners charge market rates for less than acceptable accommodations.
 - I do not believe that homelessness is an overwhelming issue in the city.
 - They're are more obvious homeless in the city and surrounding areas. The cost of housing, substance and inefficient mental health services are a major contributing factor.
 - It's makes Roanoke look trashy by having numerous individuals begging for money at an intersection. There are many intersections where this is a problem.
 - I see this every day throughout our city. In my job as security, I find them on our properties most every day.
 - Drug use, crime and abuse of the police, fire/ EMS and hospital.
 - It is obvious regardless of circumstances whether is housing or mental issues You can clearly see any time of the day on any busy corner people standing needing help sitting under bridges with everything they own all you have to do is drive around the city of Roanoke and you can see tent cities. For people who live near these areas it is unsafe
 - I see people without homes on every street corner. I can't go to certain parks after dark for fear of what might happen. I was at the Greenway a month ago and there was a naked man on the Greenway. I can't go to Elmwood park without seeing 15 homeless people all around the park and being sexually harassed.
 - I have worked with several homeless youth in the past. I see the guy sleeping up against the curb near the hospital. I know the rescue mission is likely full every night. The socioeconomic disparities in Roanoke are no joke. How can we be a community of such plenty and have so many suffering? But I also know we are not unique.
 - They are everywhere.
 - You see people living in tents in the woods. I'm sure they are in my neighborhood behind the bar on 460 and 24th st ne
 - Currently more and more homeless are becoming more visible in city
 - the city literally made it illegal to sleep outside in the city. You didn't help homelessness, you just made them move out of sight
 - I can walk less than a mile in my neighborhood and see multiple homeless people sleeping or camping in sidewalks.
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- There are more pressing issues affecting Roanoke City than homelessness. While mental health, crime and homelessness often go hand in hand, mental health and crime are bigger issues.
 - Out of some 100,000 people, the homelessness of a couple hundred or so is negligible. The tail need not wag the dog here. Just as with gun violence. Most people involved in gun violence (including victims) are engaged in illegal activity that is dangerous to the community. Play with fire, get burned. Not the problem of the vast, vast majority of Roanokers.
 - I have worked with a ministry in Roanoke for years that works to serve the homeless and meet their immediate needs.
 - Obviously!!! or this survey wouldn't exist
 - I enjoy walking outside and hiking, I see them camping in the woods, under bridges, in alleyways... it makes me feel unsafe to walk by them. This is a problem when citizens feel unsafe.
 - Homelessness is growing in Roanoke City, with little to no intervention from City government. Funding allocatiin must be focused more on SOLUTIONS.
 - I live next to the Elmwood Park Garage (right next to the Rescue Mission) and I see homeless people constantly. I see when they leave, when they go to the shelter, when they have to sleep on the patches of grass downtown or in the garage.
 - The problem is they will continue living wherever because they won't follow rules to help them, there's alot of drug issues
 - I work in downtown and see first hand how bad it is.
 - Right now I have 3 homeless people in my home. All are handicapped. They help me out by doing my grocery shopping since I can't walk that far. They are also trying to make an effort to find employment. They have been here since the covid outbreak.
 - No one should be having to live outdoors. There are homeless living in shelters, motels, tents, and in the woods. There will be a lot more in the coming months as evictions move forward and little to no affordable housing available.
 - a humans life and well being is very serious, and no one should ever fall that far down. most people choose to ignore it rather than fix it. the city banning people from sleeping on sidewalks was such a farce. thats just an excuse so cops can kick homeless people away legally when they want to. but people still sleep on the side walks all the time.
 - Some of the homeless population are dealing with a ton of mental health issues and substance abuse
 - Violent crime is a very serious issue
 - Homelessness has been increasing and becoming more widespread in public areas.
 - There are homeless individuals sleeping outdoors throughout our city. The cost of rental property is extremely inflated and the criteria being required by landlords to make 3 times the rent is almost impossible to attain for some people. Especially those living on disability or those making minimum wage. In addition, many are mentally ill and not suitable for standard housing due to the lack of independent living skills. More "affordable housing" won't address this issue.
 - Standing in medians with signs. I thought there was an ordinance against that. Enforce it.
 - There are people living with family and friends because they can't afford these high priced rentals.
 - even if the affected population is small, it's still a very serious issue
 - I live near highland park. One day last month was out playing in the tennis court & a rent was set up under a tree. Needles all over the court.
 - Homelessness exists in cycles that can be difficult to break, and greatly impacts people's quality of life in all areas.
 - While we are not overwhelmed by the number of homeless people, there are enough to impact businesses (Church Ave, Market Square) and several residential areas. The problem is not dire yet but could be if not dealt with.
 - I have had the opportunity to work with the homeless population and it continues to grow. They need a safe place in the City to live while they seek and obtain services and stability. I've also worked for Social Services in the past and recognize that trauma triggers affects a client's ability to safely be around others in a shelter...thus the need for a tiny house village.
 - I've seen worse in other cities
 - Homelessness reflects badly on the city of roanoke
 - There is help ,but the city fails to work well with outside groups that would like to help
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- At this time, I don't see it being serious. But with inflation, we could see more and more individual homeless. The cost of living in Roanoke, particularly renting, is increasing. Those who work 40hrs per week are starting to struggle.
 - Other cities encourage homeless people to come to this area because there are better resources here.
 - A couple of hundred homeless is not as bad as most areas of this size. But it still needs to be dealt with before it grows to more.
 - One need only look around to see it's a serious problem. Quotes are often given that other cities have a more serious problem..but the "their hell is hotter than our hell" argument doesn't cut it. They need help.
 - The tent encampments as well as the panhandling do not look good on the City. The only city I have ever seen more in 1 place is Washington DC.
 - The homeless people yell at me, they are worse than trash, and they make living in Roanoke an embarrassment when I bring people in from out of time. CLOSE THE RESCUE MISSION!!
 - Homeless are seemingly everywhere now as compared with just a few years ago.
 - More homeless individuals everyday and more at risk of homelessness everyday, yet our affordable housing stock remains the same
 - Homelessness in any form is a "serious" issue but comparatively to other cities we are not in nearly as serious situation but we certainly don't want to get to that point.
 - Children in homeless families suffer in many ways through no fault of their own. They are disadvantaged from their peers in public schools. Those who are homeless by addiction and/or mental health issues need services to aid in their recovery. Those who are homeless by choice place a burden on Roanoke Citizens. Homeless folks are all over the valley. It is very sad. Homeless encampments are unattractive and detrimental to economic growth. The one near the airport is a source of embarrassment to businessmen and guests flying into our city. I have been harassed by homeless on the sidewalks in downtown Roanoke. I have witnessed homeless women squatting and urinating in public on city sidewalks. Today I viewed a partially dressed homeless man passed out on the sidewalk near Target. This is so very sad. It also makes me want to avoid the areas in Roanoke where I see so many homeless in that state. If I am alone, I rarely frequent a business in downtown Roanoke due to encountering numerous homeless. It does not always feel safe. I have witnessed homeless with mental health challenges, shrieking and screaming to no one in a state of agitation.
 - A homeless person who was convicted pedophile prayed on a friend's child, and there are more coming in!! Get them out of here !
 - The numbers have grown despite adequate resources because they do not want help, and prefer to get high and sleep/go to the bathroom outside.
 - Homeless people have used my house as a restroom, my water house as a shower, slept beside my house. Drug transactions and sex acts conducted beside my property. It is impacting the city's perception and property values, and the number of people willing to live/work/visit downtown.
 - I've seen worse in other cities.
 - Number of homeless individuals has increased dramatically over the last decade
 - Travel and run around Roanoke frequently. I see more and more homelessness that impacts the city in various ways. People sleeping or passed out in the road and on sidewalks, aggressive panhandling, and encampments in woods and in open spaces.
 - They are everywhere and you dipshits keep welcoming more. Start arresting those giving to panhandlers. They are the real problem.
 - Aggressive panhandling. Being cursed at when declining to give money at red lights and parking lots. People standing right beside car windows, staring inside at red lights. City wide, not just limited to one area. Lack of consequences for panhandling / break ins. People "camping" in woods 100 footsteps away from my front door on Parkway. Parkway won't do anything either. Some good friends who were raised here and then raised their children here, moved to Bedford, just last weekend, because of the panhandling and a break in to their garage. It has become unbearable.
 - The problem is affordable and SAFE housing with adequate supports within each neighborhood
 - Homelessness exists everywhere but they shouldn't be allowed to camp out wherever they want to. That's more of an issue than being just homeless
 - Because the city caters to people. It is well known that you go to Roanoke city and they will give you everything that is needed and you don't have to do a thing
 - I'm a social worker in Roanoke and see this issue almost daily
-

- I see it but it does not affect be directly.
- Don't arrest them for sleeping on a bench or a sidewalk. Be a part of the solution not a part of the problem.
- I am disabled and unable to drive, or fill out forms and the process is too complicated to access all resources when there is no one to assist or consolidate the process - housing, EXPEDITE and simplify the process of disability/mental health accessibility !!!
- The cost of living is so high many people are becoming homeless even working full time. This is ridiculous. Lower the rent and let things be normal again
- They are sleeping on the sidewalk in downtown Roanoke
- You cannot walk a block in Roanoke city without bypassing a homeless or transient person. There has been what also seems to be an increase of crime as homeless numbers rise. There is also a very gross lacking of mental health services available and most are constantly revolving in and out of the mental health care system
- I see nothing being done to help them, if they go to the rescue mission they are allowed breakfast and then turned out on to walk the streets or sleep on them. Doesnt matter how hot or cold it is outside.
- Most homeless people are making the choice to live outside.
- Drive around and actually look at your surroundings- in NE, SE the camps are everywhere. These people have nowhere else to go. This city desperately needs home or apartment complexes for no income people. Take a proactive stand against other cities busing in homeless people to our city.
- These people are in dangerous conditions and choose not to go to homeless shelters due to lack of help
- Bums are everywhere in Roanoke
- Beyond the simple inhumanity of not having adequate shelter, the homeless create public and environmental health problems by not having access to sanitary toilet facilities, and also with their solid waste/litter, and in many cases used needles. Further, those same factors create neighborhood and community nuisances that can adversely impact local businesses and quality of life. Their presence within and adjacent to roadways creates traffic and pedestrian safety concerns.
- There are way more people on the side of the road now than in the past.
- It is so sad !!!
- Drugs and gang violence are a more pressing issue.
- Homeless individuals are panhandling almost 24/7.
- Unfortunately, it appears homelessness is everywhere in Roanoke and the rise of people begging at every stoplight is heartbreaking and shocking that it has gotten so bad.
- I have seen the homeless pushing their carts or hauling their things around. I have read about studies done. And lastly I have worked over nights in hotels and had to turn homeless people out of the lobbies in places I have worked.
- It is a problem, but at least we aren't San Fransisco or Los Angeles
- Driving around town, all you see is makeshift tents and trash.
- Those homeless need a place to go 24/7. They need programs to improve their situation. And more mental health facilities available to assess the problem.
- There are many homeless people on the median throughout Roanoke every single day asking for money. They are trashing up SE WITH THEIR roadside campsites, sleeping on sidewalks.
- There are hordes of homeless on every street corner in the city begging for money.
- It may not affect many people, but it seems shameful to allow people to suffer.
- See above
- I work downtown and there is a very visible homeless presence. It impacts our level of safety as well as we have had issues being approached by homeless people asking for money and getting very aggressive. I don't feel safe leaving work when it gets late or even coming in early. I've even had friends being approached by men on the greenway while running. They've shown up out of no where and have exhibited very rude, crude and inappropriate behavior.
- You see it on every corner
- Homeless are coming to Roanoke because we are too lenient on crime
- As a Roanoke resident for 25 years, City resident for 3, and Downtown (Old SW) resident for 2, I have noticed an increased presence of individuals who are homeless in the City and Downtown Roanoke neighborhoods. Poverty has increased since the start of the pandemic and current inflation is putting

even more people at risk of homelessness. Large apartment complexes are being renovated (i.e. Grandin Road), limiting affordable housing options even further.

- It is a problem but there are far more serious issues.
- Homelessness is an issue in that it effect those without homes. It's not a blight on the city. People stay in jail longer without housing. Peoples mental health gets worse without housing. The city is healthier when affordable housing is available.
- Even though I don't see as many homeless people sleeping on benches as much as I used to. However I do sread it however I do see a lot of homeless people with signs asking for money.
- Definite increase in the homeless population over the last few years
- The population is growing and more and more people are landing in Roanoke for services.
- Too many people seen on the streets and on abandoned properties
- You can see it everywhere around city.. trash clothes carts everywhere because shelters don't have enough space.. we need multiple places for people homeless, mental health people, people coming out of unhealthy relationships etc..
- ased on observations at major interseccrions I can only conclude homelessness is a serious issue.
- I am impacted by homelessness every day. Destitute people creating chaos throughout Roanoke is blatant and disruptive.
- We have so many homeless in and on the streets everywhere
- I believe the "homeless" that we see on Roanoke street corners are mostly a subset of people who either have a place to live or don't want the accountability of services offered. Social media channels abound with reports of people tracking them back home, etc. These people need to be fined and/or arrested, and they make it harder for the real homeless people. My guess is that "true" homelessness in Roanoke is mostly single moms or refugee/immigrant families, and that another portion are people with substance abuse addictions.
- They are on every corner
- I work downtown, and every day I come into town to work I see more and more homeless people sleeping on the streets, under bridges, and walking the streets. they are always asking for a handout.
- Homeless shelter isn't the only solution.
- Homelessness is a serious issue everywhere.
- There are homeless camps everywhere and it makes it unsafe to do many things outdoors. There's one right on the side of the road on elm that nothing has been done about. Ever since the no sleeping downtown rule was established, they have been branching out everywhere. I have been harassed by obviously high or mentally unstable homeless people on Tinker Creek Greenway and the one that goes under the memorial ave bridge with the houses murals and no longer feel safe using them. My dog has gotten drug paraphernalia lodged in his paw. My daughter has seen a naked from the waist down man run across our path while walking greenways. They set chairs up under the overpass of 581 right by the Mission and the by the cemetery (and many other places) and leave trash everywhere and wander into the street constantly with no regard for oncoming traffic. I have almost hit a homeless person multiple times. I have seen homeless men urinating right out in the open on many occasions. I have witnessed several homeless men break into a fist fight, once in the middle of the road while my daughter was in the car with me. Ever since the pandemic it seems like homeless people are no longer being addressed by police and therefore they have become quite brazen and outspoken and have no regard for any person or property around them. Instead of closing the hotels they used for shelter, forcing them to spread farther into the suburbs of roanoke, something needs done to get them off the streets. All the city has succeeded in doing thus far, is pushing them out of downtown and into our backyards literally.
- look around.....getting colder out
- I am seeing a lot more homeless encapment.
- I work at Lowe's near the airport and I see a lot of homeless people in our parking lot. I also see lots of panhandlers near Towers Mall and at the corner of Franklin and Brandon.
- Homeless people have camps behind stores , on side walks . I can't even be at a stop light without someone staring at me with a sign
- There are many people living on the streets on in their cars!
- Homelessness is a major problem which we've so far addressed by criminalizing and filling our inhuman jails further with people who deserve to be treated with respect. When the least of us thrives, our

community will thrive all the more. Create an income maximum tax, say, anything over 300k/year gets taxed at 95%. Use that money to build the middle class and lift our fellow citizens out of poverty.

- There are homeless people all over the valley. You can't drive without seeing panhandlers on every corner. There are also disgusting encampments on several locations. Most are within walking distance of the Rescue Mission.
 - It's everywhere and if you don't think so, you are in denial. It is not a downtown problem, a Valley View/interstate problem. It is everywhere and it's in your neighborhood if you are willing to see it.
 - You can't just shoo the unhoused away from downtown and call it done.
 - The homeless are in need of help. There are various reasons why someone is homeless and they deserve assistance.
 - There are far too many homeless folks in our area that are in dire need of help, non judgemental help.
 - Homeless camps or camping are everywhere. Many steal what they cannot procure elsewhere.
 - Homeless is bad in Roanoke. They have no outlet to keep one busy. The city and give them bags, and brooms to clean up the city. Thus in return, have a shelter for them to sleep and eat.
 - We are seeing more and more homeless people, people living in the woods and along the river. What we see is only a small percentage of the suffering.
-

Keith Holland

From: Becca H <beccahyer9@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:25 PM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Affordable Housing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good evening!

I'm a Roanoke city resident and I wanted to let you know I'm in support of building more affordable housing! However, I personally would like to see more than 40 units in the city. We need housing for those who aren't quite low income but are mid tier. I'm a teacher with 5 years experience and I was priced out of so many units because 1- I didn't qualify for low income housing and 2- I simply didn't make enough to live alone. I ended up purchasing a home and I'm a southeast resident. I would love to see more housing options available that range from \$600-\$1000 a month in rent. This would help so many people in the community. Just wanted to let you know I'm in support of affordable homes and saying that we need more options. Thank you!!

Keith Holland

From: Brooklyn McGhee <brooklynmcghee1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 1:39 AM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I signed up with thousands of others on the new section 8 list back in August. We were told the city received federal funding and were able to open this list. Should the thousands on that list currently waiting just get evicted and wait at the shelter for the new "affordable housing" to become available? Many of us on that list are currently facing homelessness and doing everything we can to make ends meet so we don't have to live on the streets with our children. Why was list opened and should we expect help? If so, when? It doesn't seem right and I would appreciate some understanding as to why it seems the money promised to section is now going to this. Many people will be helped but just as many will suffer and you will have twice as much homelessness if something isn't done very soon. Thanks. Brooklyn McGhee

Keith Holland

From: Catherine Shenal <cshenal@brbh.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Home-ARP Feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Mr. Holland,

Good morning. I have reviewed the Home-ARP proposal that was presented at the city council meeting last night. I would like to share that I spent every day last week canvassing the city working with homeless individuals. I encountered many individuals each day that asked me if I could locate housing for them, as they had a housing voucher but no affordable housing. Each of these individuals had already received supportive services in the community (i.e. Case Management from VA/Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare/HAT Team/TAP/Rescue Mission/Western Virginia Regional Jail Community Integration, etc.).

I share this as an example of why I feel that the proposed budget to allocate \$1,224,668 toward "supportive services" is seriously misguided. The lack of affordable housing units is, without question, the biggest barrier for our homeless population in our community. Please ensure that your program is not duplicating existing community "supportive services" that have alternative funding streams already in place. It is imperative that these funds go directly to supporting the development of affordable housing units. "Supportive services" are not very useful if individuals are only able to be supported in the streets.

Respectfully,
Cathy Shenal



**Blue Ridge
Behavioral
Healthcare**

Catherine Shenal

Regional Coordinator
Access to Care Division

Phone: 540-345-9841 x1220

Fax: 540-345-6891

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Keith Holland

From: Chris Oliver <coliver@hpsystemsinc.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOME ARP program

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi Keith,

I am writing concerning the purposal for affordable housing development. This has been a concern for me for some time. I see empty building and even and empty hotel on Franklin road and wondered why there wasn't a program for qualified people for some sort of living conditions. It's a disgrace that we have people sleeping on the streets , woods and who knows where else, when we as a people of abundance look on. I do believe that there needs to be some sort of work or agreement that there is some skin on the game- you keep it clean, you keep the area around the housing looking nice, and NO DRUGS! I think of the Habitat program where families have to put so many hours into build. That creates ownership, and more that likely you will not abuse it if you feel like you made this.

I look forward to seeing the progress on this.

Thank you
Christopher Oliver
3174 Galloway Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018
540-761-4876

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Keith Holland

From: David David <roanokeisnice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:10 PM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Housing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Are there any plans to put this housing in south Roanoke and southwest roanoke? The last thing south east and north west needs is low income housing. You should be putting resources towards dealing with the drug addicted homeless population that accosts people daily.

Re: HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

From: Don Langrehr, Landlord

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. I own several rental properties in Roanoke. I have participated as a Section 8 landlord for approximately 8 years and appreciate the overall effort of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing staff (RRHA) serving under very challenging work conditions. The RRHA workload is obviously daunting and I have found RRHA staff to be consistently professional.

As would be expected during that time, I've had both positive and negative experiences. One salient characteristic of a majority of my Section 8 Participants is a severe need for financial literacy training. In my opinion, a portion of HOME-ARP resources should be utilized for additional support services; Section 8 participants seriously need structured mentoring to learn to maintain a household budget. Providing housing assistance alone will not help participants to develop the skills needed to progress financially and break from the public assistance cycle many participants remain in. This appears to be a self-perpetuating routine. "Hopping" from one public assistance program to other charitable programs seems to be a standard pattern many participants fall into.

Perhaps a support service such as monthly group household budget meetings could be mandated as a requirement for receiving Section 8 Voucher assistance. Multiple landlord experiences have provoked this suggestion and I'll try to summarize some here:

- A former tenant and continued participant who receives full rent assistance plus a utility stipend kept the thermostat set at 80 F in the winter/ 65F in the summer despite landlord guidance. As a result, this participant had gas and electric service discontinued multiple times for nonpayment.
- A current tenant/participant receiving approx. 80% Section 8 rental assistance needed another car to maintain employment. She purchased a used vehicle from a dealer without knowing the original price, interest rate, or term of the loan. She only knows the monthly payment.
- A current tenant/participant with multiple children receives approx. 30% Section 8 rental assistance and maintains two leased vehicles, furniture/televisions from Aaron's Rent-to-Own, TV cable service, multiple telephone plans, etc. They are currently \$2700 in arrears on rent and attempting mandatory utility payments to maintain service.
- A former tenant and continued participant who received approx. 90% rental assistance maintained a clean kitchen primarily due to all her meals being purchased at fast food establishments. This family had no pots/pans; there was no need for them. As a result, the fast food refuse consistently overflowed the trash can serving as a buffet for rodents and feral cats and resulting in multiple Roanoke City property violations.
- I'll stop there. 😊

As a landlord, I try my best to offer suggestions/guidance/resources to my tenants in regard to effective financial budgeting and priorities. However, I have had limited positive effect; I cannot serve as a fulltime social worker also. I made similar public comments to RRHA officials who were present at a recent meeting on homelessness resources held in the Belmont neighborhood. Please seriously consider the need for mandatory counseling in financial literacy and household budgeting for all Section 8 participants and any future HOME-ARP aid recipients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Holland

From: Holland, Shirley B. <sbholland@carilionclinic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

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Hi Keith,

I am writing on behalf of Carilion's community health and outreach division to support a comprehensive plan to address housing needs in Roanoke City. Affordable, safe housing plays a major role in the overall health and equity of the community and in the daily well-being of its citizens. From your studies, our health assessments and other information, there appears to be a significant need for not only affordable housing but also coordination of support services for those without adequate housing. Capacity building of homes through various means suggested in the plan is supported by our organization, particularly for vulnerable and high-needs populations. We see on a daily basis the manifestation of the lack of healthy, safe living environments and the detrimental impact on people's physical and mental health. We applaud creative solutions to increasing housing inventory in the city as a means of improving the health status of our community.

Shirley B. Holland
VP, Planning & Community Development
Carilion Clinic
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Roanoke, Virginia 24016
540-981-9410 (O)
sbholland@carilionclinic.org

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Keith Holland

From: Karen Michalski <kmichalski@brilc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Keith,

We didn't see anything in the Plan about accessible housing. A percentage of the housing units being constructed should be accessible. We would like to recommend a "bonus" for those developers who make more than the "required percentage" accessible. Ideally, we would like to see all units that aren't built to be accessible to be constructed using the "Universal Design" concept.

In addition to being accessible and affordable, it is extremely important that the new units are built in areas of the City that would "affirmatively further" Fair Housing. A majority of the rental property in the City is located in two quadrants. It is imperative that rental housing be located throughout the City so that renters can live throughout the City.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we can provide additional information, please let us know.

Karen M. Karney, MPA

Pronouns: she/her/hers
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 Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Inc.
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Keith Holland

From: Marie Muddiman Beebe <mmuddiman@familypromiseroanoke.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Keith,

On behalf of Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, we are supportive of the allocation plan as submitted for review. Affordable housing has become a crisis level issue within the Roanoke Valley. In the past Family Promise of Greater Roanoke was able to move families quickly from shelter to safe, affordable housing as the average length of stay was 46 days. In the calendar year 2022, the average length of stay was 86 days due to the inability to find safe, affordable housing. This also caused us to serve only half the number of families that we served in the past.

This critical need must be addressed. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is an excellent start to addressing the need.

We appreciate all the work the council and city staff have done to make this possible.

Marie Muddiman Beebe
Executive Director
Family Promise of Greater Roanoke
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Salem, VA 24153
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mmuddiman@familypromiseroanoke.org
www.familypromiseroanoke.org

Keith Holland

From: Sherry Lucas <sdllucas2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Bob Cowell
Cc: Keith Holland
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HUD/ARP

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Good Morning Gentlemen,

I'm under the impression from what I'm reading in the recent HUD/ARP fund plans for SE, and what I'm hearing said in the City Council Meetings that a truckload of low income/ affordable rentals are going to be dumped on SE whether we want it or not. Don't get me wrong, I completely understand the need for some. However, it is not fair at all to pull money away from what SE needs to most, which is a complete facelift of the Jamison, Bullitt, Dale Ave main corridor. The run down appearance and unattractive stores only attract vagrancy, thefts, and loitering, and scare off visitors and customers. The homeless issues are not new to SE at all. There have always been homeless who have chosen to camp in the woods instead of going to the Rescue Mission where they have to follow rules. The difference in 2022-23, is they just became "more visible" because the D&G Mart allowed a homeless camp to take place on their property with no regards to the stores on the other side of them such as Emelios Pizza.

I know for a fact, because I spoke to 2 homeless men who told me, "the store and medians nearby is a hotspot for panhandling" as one of them said as he pulled out a wad of cash and jingled the change in his pocket, and told me, "I can make \$100 in day on good weeks."

That's pretty good for tax free income!

Peter Volosin is all for putting the money Towards non-congregate homeless shelters.

I'm blown away that this is even a consideration! SE certainly does NOT NEED another Ramada Inn, Days Inn, Airport Inn, full of addicts, homeless, prostitution, drug dealer and sex trafficking victims. This type of "roach motel shelters" was a disaster for 3 hotels in City.

Why do you think the others are closed up? The FBI shutting one down last year off of Hersherberger that not only created crime in Roanoke, but brought in out of State drug runners, and increased sex trafficking and kidnapping. Why would anyone in Roanoke in any area want to open up another one?

They brought nothing but tragedy and trouble.

I attached a report that's on the City website I'd really like you all to look over. I highlighted a few things that were the GOALS for SE Revitalization back in 2001. It appears from the stats that SE was already over saturated with rentals even then and it was recommended to add more owner occupied homes. The housing stock of owned homes that were added, hasn't increased that much since then either, in fact, many houses have burnt down, and there was absolutely no development that was done to increase housing in the upper income markets even though SE is perfectly capable of handling it. There is definitely a need for housing diversity. The conditions of the dilapidated streets can be deceiving.

This area can be made quite vibrant if efforts were put into it. The only plans I saw for any kind of revitalization was in Belmont on 9th St. What improvements will made in the Fallon area? It's included in the HUD funds too.

Hopefully, business facade improvements.

Thanks for your time.

Sherry

US Census 1990 & 2000

Homeownership rates in Belmont-Fallon should be closer to Roanoke's overall homeownership rate of 56%

Future development should focus on increasing income/housing diversity by increasing the supply of housing in the upper-income markets.

The neighborhood has an abundance of affordable housing opportunities. Over 10% of the neighborhood's housing units are publicly assisted and over three quarters of the neighborhood's rents are below \$400/month. The median house value is almost half the city's median value.

Housing comparison between Belmont-Fallon and Roanoke

	Belmont-Fallon	Roanoke
Owner-occupied	50%	56%
Renter-occupied	50%	44%
Persons per household	2.68	2.30
Median house value	mid-\$40K	low-\$80K
Rents below \$400/mo	76%	55%

US Census 2000

Public and subsidized housing

Total housing units	1726
Public housing units	80
Publicly-subsidized housing units	100

US Census 2000 and RRHA

are multifamily.

Some of the large, two-story houses were originally built as over/under duplexes. Access to the upper unit was provided either through a rear staircase or simply through the main entrance. It was common for an extended family to occupy both units.

Home-ownership is decreasing in the neighborhood. Over half of the residential properties in Belmont are not owner-occupied. While not a hard and fast rule, owner-occupied properties tend to be better maintained than absentee owner properties. With an aging population, more owner-occupied properties will likely be purchased by absentee owners and converted into apartments unless action is taken to encourage more home ownership.

The City has selected Belmont as a pilot area for its first years of targeting Community Development Block Grant funds. This project, called Southeast by Design, will focus over \$1 million into housing and infrastructure improvements along the Bullitt-Jamison corridor. A master plan for the corridor is underway and should be adopted as part of or as an amendment to this plan.

One of the city's public housing developments, Indian Rock Village, is located at the eastern edge of the neighborhood. Indian Rock Village provides 80 public housing units in a series of townhouse structures. The Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority lists 100 households in the neighborhood that



Belmont-Fallon

NEIGHBORHOOD
PLAN

ROANOKE
VIRGINIA



2001
2007

Adopted by City Council January 2003

Contents:

Introduction
Community Design
Residential Development
Economic Development
Infrastructure
Public Services
Quality of Life
Recommendations
Implementation
Acknowledgments

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Planning Building & Development

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Belmont-Fallon-
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Keith Holland

From: Sherry Lucas <sdllucas2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Bob Cowell
Cc: Keith Holland; Peter Volosin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [EXTERNAL] HUD Funds Allocation for SE Roanoke

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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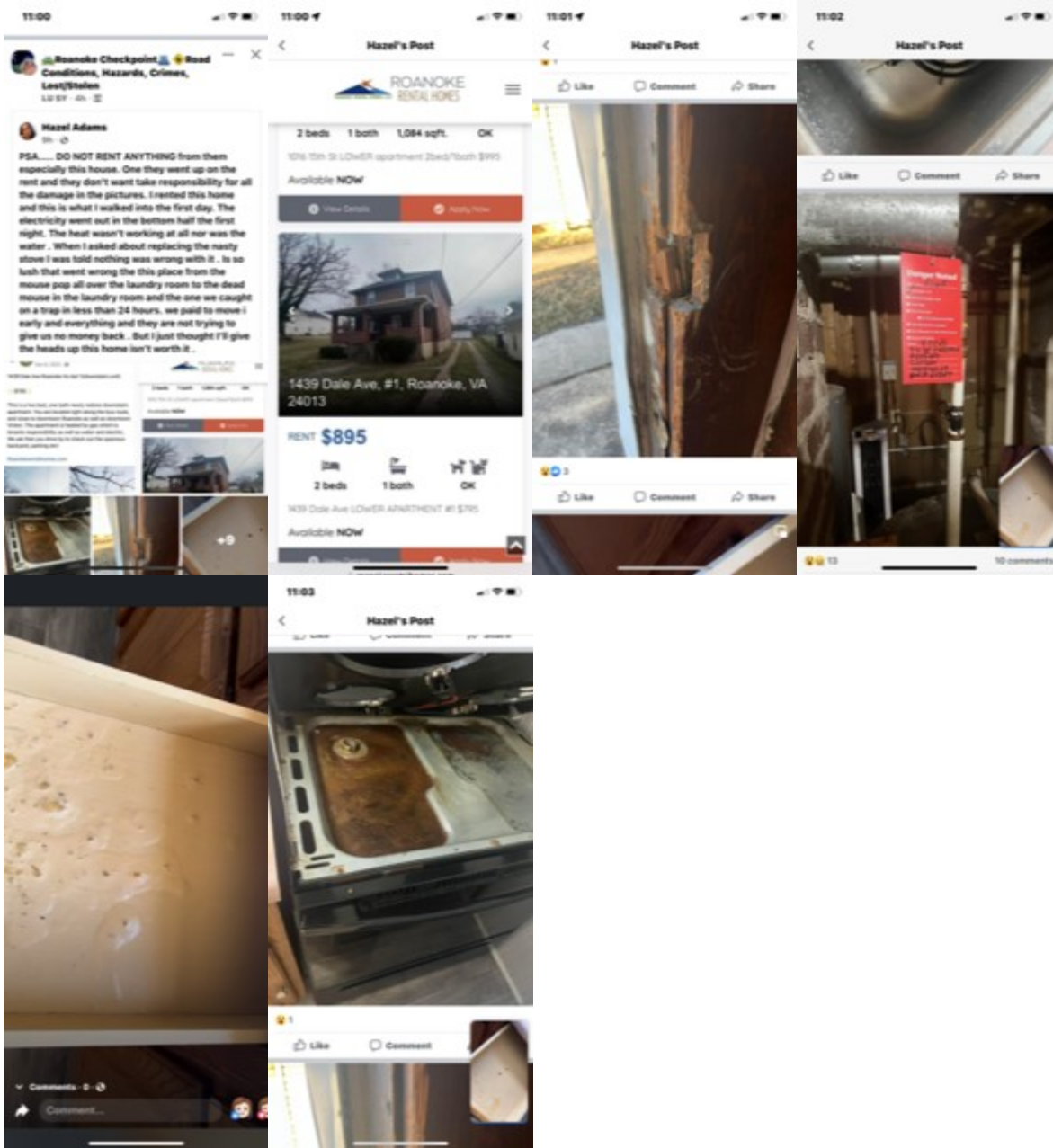
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I read thru the ARP Allocation plan.

I would like to state as a longtime homeowner in SE Roanoke who lives in the Fallon area, I am in total disagreement with your plan to add a multitude of affordable rentals to this neighborhood. The reason is the long history of most of the landlords only renting to pocket the money and failing to maintain the property. There is a home 2 houses over from me that is owned by the Grandin Agency, and nothing has been improved on that home in years. The roof looks horrible, the lattice is falling down, the outbuilding is probably a code violation. There's also a duplex rental on my street that had SWAT bust in their door 4 this past Summer, and there's rental properties on Morton Ave that have been nothing but trouble. Drugs being sold out of 2 of them, and none of the 4 houses have been maintained, and apparently no strict screening of renters. Then, yesterday I seen photos (attached) of this home on Dale that used to be a pretty home until it was made split rentals. Now, it's trashed and dangerous! If you all lived in SE you would know more rentals is the worst move you all can possibly do to try and improve this neighborhood. I can't make you understand but I can beg you to listen to me, and hope that you will. The cheaper rentals, the more issues you will create. This is the God's honest truth.

I've been hearing rumors of a tiny home village being built, and if that happens, I will put my home up for sale quickly.

Sherry



Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Cowell <Bob.Cowell@roanokeva.gov>
Date: January 10, 2023 at 4:25:19 PM EST
To: Sherry <sducas2@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Holland <keith.holland@roanokeva.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] HUD Funds Allocation for SE Roanoke

Ms. Lucas,

Thank you for forwarding this information.

Bob Cowell

From: Sherry <sdllucas2@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:05 PM

To: Keith Holland <Keith.Holland@roanokeva.gov>

Cc: Bob Cowell <bob.cowell@roanokeva.gov>; Sherman Lea <sherman.lea@roanokeva.gov>; Joseph L. Cobb <joseph.cobb@roanokeva.gov>; Vivian Sanchez-Jones <vivian.sanchez-jones@roanokeva.gov>; trish.white-boyd <trish.white-boyd@roanokeva.gov>; Anita Price <anita.price@roanokeva.gov>; Luke Priddy <luke.priddy@roanokeva.gov>; Peter Volosin <peter.volosin@roanokeva.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] HUD Funds Allocation for SE Roanoke

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

Good Afternoon Everyone!

It is difficult for me to attend the Stakeholder's Meeting in SE in regards to the HUD Funds due to evening obligations with work and childcare. I really wish I could. However, I want to be very much involved in having input into the allocation of HUD Funds. I live in SE and know first hand what the needs are and are not. I have added a link for you to view the letter and photos in presentation style below. Please take a look at it. I would appreciate any feedback or questions you may have as well.

Sincerely,
Sherry

[Document 23.docx](#)



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Extract of the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Council meeting.

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL-REGULAR SESSION

February 21, 2023

7:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 42529-010323 adopted by the Council on Monday, January 3, 2023.

PRESENT: Council Members Patricia White-Boyd, Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Peter J. Volosin, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, and Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.-6.

ABSENT: Council Member Luke W. Priddy-1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Adam Ayers, Middle School Pastor, Valley Church of God.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS:

HOME ARP ALLOCATION PLAN: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a proposal of the City of Roanoke to consider approval of the City of Roanoke HOME ARP Allocation Plan and amendment to the City of Roanoke 2020 - 2024 5-year HUD Consolidated Plan, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, January 27, 2023 and in *The Roanoke Tribune* on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

(See publisher's affidavits on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The City Manager submitted a written report noting that City Council will not be asked to take formal action on the proposed plan and amendment at the conclusion of its public hearing on February 21, 2023. The intent is to seek approval of the plan and authorize submission to HUD during the March 6, 2023 or March 20, 2023 regular meeting, pending completion of 30-day public comment period.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Keith Holland, Community Resources Program Administrator, provided an overview of the Plan.

(See copy of presentation on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor advised that no action was required by the Council, but action would take place at a future Council Meeting; and inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter; whereupon, the following individuals appeared before the Council:

Kevin Berry, 401 Campbell Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Rescue Mission and support of the HOME-ARP Plan.

Phoenix Keese, 727 Riverland Road, S. E., appeared before the Council and thanked them for the Plan and suggested that the City should provide assistance with building homes, mental health, and trauma informed education.

Virginia Sweet, 1375 Lakewood Drive, S. W., on behalf of the Church Women United Group, appeared before the Council and applauded the City on the effort to create units for citizens.

Danny Clawson, P.O. Box 2376, appeared before the Council and thanked the City for the HOME-ARP Plan and requested that more affordable housing be provided.

Lauren Canary, 1029 Woodron Avenue, S. E., appeared before the Council in support of affordable housing for all and asked the Council to improve conditions at the RAM House.

There being no additional speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Volosin explained that the ARPA Plan frequently spoke of non-congregate shelters as a priority and inquired about both congregate and non-congregate housing; whereupon, Mr. Holland advised that the surveys were relied heavily upon and the demand was for single unit housing and many of the citizens the Plan was trying to help may not function well in larger congregate shelters and hoped to create lower density units to be spread across the City and deinstitutionalize the life of the homeless.

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There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the regular meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Cecelia F. McCoy, CMC
City Clerk

Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Mayor



NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS for HOME-ARP FUNDING

Roanoke, Virginia

Effective Date: January 3, 2023

Prepared for
Keith Holland
City of Roanoke
HUD Community Resources Division
Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building
215 Church Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24011

Summary

This document highlights key data, analysis and findings as they relate to the City of Roanoke, VA Homeless Needs Assessment. The intent of this report is to provide demographic and housing data and analysis that demonstrates the housing needs of the area's lower income households (generally those earning no more than 80% of Area Median Household Income, or AMHI), with an emphasis on the specific needs of the homeless population. This attempts to comport to certain data requirements for funding requests under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) program. This needs assessment and gap analysis uses several current and past research and reports listed below in order to create a foundation for future implementation of the HOME-ARP program:

- RKG Associate Inc. Regional Housing Study, 2020
- PIT/CoC/HMIS Homeless Statistics, 2020-2022
- Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness (BRICH) – Community Engagement Report and Statistics
- City's Analysis of Impediment – Consultation
- Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) Report
- The Ramsay Group (TRG) research, surveys and consultations with service providers, city staff, housing developers and the public in 2022

Summary of Findings from Existing Reports

Overall Population and Household Growth is Projected to be Positive – The current population in the City of Roanoke, Virginia is approximately 100,000. The population and total households within the region have grown slowly over the last 50 years, with the percentage of the elderly population increasing (RKG Associates, 2020). Households with one or two persons are the largest household groups in the City of Roanoke. In 2018, the city had 42,037 households, and 2025 projections show the city could add 2,162 families to the City Population (44,119 households). Approximately 83% of households have only one person.

Nearly 20,000 People Live in Poverty – Persons experiencing poverty are often the most vulnerable to experiencing housing challenges including homelessness. Poverty is often a reflection of financial issues that can contribute to housing challenges. Nearly 20,000 people in the City of Roanoke endure poverty, representing one in five residents. This data stresses the importance of affordable housing alternatives for people living in poverty.

Most Low-income Renters are Cost Burdened or Unable to Find Affordable Housing - Rent has

increased 14% over the last five years. The average rent for a single-family home is approximately \$900 per month, while rent in multi-family dwellings averages \$1,300 per month (RKG Associates, Inc., 2020). At 30% of their income, a household of one at 30% AMI should pay about \$412 per month for rent. The number of renter households that qualify for affordable rental housing at the 30% of AMI level exceeds the number of units available at that price point. There is a projected deficit of 3,569 affordable units, meaning many extremely low-income households are having to spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. This further exacerbates housing affordability and cost burden challenges and heightens the risk of low-income households experiencing homelessness.

Persons Experiencing Homelessness Need More Than Housing – The majority of people interviewed and who completed the survey stated that people experiencing homelessness need supportive services to assist them in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing, case management to work on indicated interests and strengths and navigate systems and resources to not only survive but thrive.

Based on these findings combined with the feedback from the community, it is recommended that the City of Roanoke focus its HOME ARP strategies on providing housing opportunities and supportive services for the homeless, particularly those with extremely low incomes. This can be achieved through rental assistance, supportive wraparound services, and support for the construction or preservation of affordable housing.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The current City population is approximately 100,000. Between 2010-2022, the population increased by over 3,800 residents. The population of Roanoke is projected to increase by about 1.2% between 2018 and 2025, or about 1,100 residents. Based on current data, the city is projected to continue to grow slowly in the future. Also, the city is experiencing an aging population with an increase of 13% of residents over the age of 65 in the last five years. The growth in the senior population will impact the housing supply as many seniors may like to age in place so long as an adequate housing supply is available that meets their needs.

Table 1

Projected Total Households				
Community	2018 Estimates	2025 Projections	Change	Percent Change
Roanoke City	42,037	44,119	2,162	5%
Region	137,942	142,643	4,701	3%
Source: ESRI, 2020 – RKG				

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020), the current racial makeup of the City of Roanoke is as follows:

- White: 61.47%
- Black or African American: 29.38%
- Two or more races: 4.73%
- Asian: 3.35%
- Other race: 0.79%
- Native American: 0.22%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.05%

The city's Hispanic/Latino population rose by 13% from 5,406 residents to 6,104 between 2013-2018 (Citywide Housing Study, City of Roanoke, Virginia, 2020).

The City of Roanoke has a significant portion of its population (47%) with a high school diploma or less. Educational attainment is often associated with higher earnings which can translate to a greater ability to pay for housing costs. In the City of Roanoke, 15% of the population has one or more of the Census-defined disabilities, translating into 14,461 individuals. The senior population in the City of Roanoke shows many disabled individuals, with 5,780 residents having at least one disability. The aging population is of particular concern, as they tend to live on fixed incomes and have higher healthcare costs which may limit the amount they can spend on housing. Disability, in particular mental health disabilities, can make it challenging to earn enough to afford adequate housing.

INCOME

Household income directly influences the ability of residents to secure housing that is affordable and available to them. Household income can affect housing prices if an influx of higher-income households enters the market over time or, conversely, leaves the market over time. As of 2020, the median household income in the City of Roanoke was approximately \$40,000. It is important that over time incomes are compared to housing costs to ensure increasing price points stay manageable for low- and middle-income households.

Cost burden, a circumstance where a household pays more than 30% of its income toward housing costs, is a reality for lower-income families across the city. About 42% of city households earn less than \$35,000 annually. The higher percentage of lower-income households requires proactive measures to ensure safe and affordable housing for families at

all income levels.

Table 2

Projected Median Household Incomes				
Community	2020 Estimates	2025 Projections	Change	Percent Change
Roanoke City	\$40,593	\$42,357	\$1,764	4%
Source: ESRI, 2020 – RKG				

Between 2010 and 2019, employment data for the City of Roanoke shows that the top 10 employment subsectors have added jobs with an average wage of \$55,000. The sector which experienced the most significant gain was Healthcare, adding 1,576 jobs over the ten years with an average salary of \$72,900. One interesting trend in the city is the growth in high-wage and low-wage jobs. Sectors like healthcare, finance, insurance, and manufacturing are all growing and have average wages between \$73,000 and \$88,200. At the same time, the city is experiencing growth in the accommodations, food services, personal services, and arts and entertainment sectors. These sectors have average wages between \$21,150 and \$29,000, much lower than other sectors, which directly correlates to what a person or family can afford for housing. Table 3 shows the affordable home price and affordable rent by industry sector based on the average earnings within each sector.

Table 3

Housing Affordability Based on Top 10 Industry Sectors, 2019				
Industry	Industry Jobs	Average Earnings	Affordable Home Price	Affordable Rent
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,992	\$72,853	\$268,949	\$1,821
Government	8,647	\$68,237	\$251,908	\$1,706
Retail Trade	7,636	\$33,689	\$124,369	\$842
Accommodation and Food Services	6,319	\$21,154	\$78,093	\$529
Construction	4,485	\$62,851	\$232,025	\$1,571
Transportation and Warehousing	4,222	\$56,664	\$209,185	\$1,417
Other Services (except Public Administration)	3,933	\$28,968	\$106,940	\$724
Manufacturing	3,898	\$74,083	\$273,490	\$1,852

Finance and Insurance	3,221	\$88,231	\$325,719	\$2,206
Administrative and Support Services	2,941	\$43,552	\$160,779	\$1,089
Source: EMSI, and RKG Associates, Inc., 2020				
Note: Rent payment accounts for utilities. Home price accounts for mortgage, taxes, and insurance.				

The hospitality and food services sector offer income enough for a monthly rent of \$529 compared to the finance sector, which provides a salary that can afford monthly rent as much as \$2,206.

Persons with disabilities often receive SSI which is \$841 per month (Social Security Administration website, 2022). 30% is approximately \$252. With the average rent in a multi-family development sitting at approximately \$1,300, a person receiving SSI would need monthly rental assistance of \$1,048.

RENTAL HOUSING SUPPLY ANALYSIS

The City of Roanoke has 47,056 housing units, of which 42,037 (89%) are occupied, and 5,019 (11%) are vacant. Of the occupied housing units, 52% are owner-occupied, and 48% are renter-occupied.

Table 4

Housing Tenure, Rental		
Renter Occupied	City of Roanoke	Region
Single Family	42%	44%
Multifamily	57%	52%
Mobile Home/RV/Other	0%	4%
Source: ACS 2014-2018 – RKG		

The rental housing stock across the city is old, with 80% of rental housing units built before 1980. Half of all rental units in the town were constructed before 1959. Older rental units tend to require significant maintenance and possible rehabilitation, sometimes resulting in less-than ideal conditions for tenants.

In 2018, the median gross rent in the city was \$799, an increase of 15% from 2013. In 2020 rental listings reveal the average rent for a single-family home is \$907 per month, while rents in multifamily buildings averaged \$1,308 per month, a 12% and 39% increase, respectively, in

two years. Rental prices in the larger apartment complexes vary significantly depending on the location, quality, and amenities offered but are about \$400 higher than the average rent for a single-family home.

To accommodate new population growth, RKG Associates developed a methodology for calculating the number of new households based on the increase in population, which then translates into estimates for future housing demand. RKG assumes that future household composition and housing tenure will follow a similar pattern today and uses household sizes and tenure splits to allocate future household growth.

To accommodate the projected population for 2025, the city may need to produce at least 2,162 housing units above what exists today. The RKG study assumes current housing vacancy rates continue to hold steady. It also assumed that the split between owner and renter households would remain at 52% owner-occupied and 48% renter-occupied. Under these assumptions, RKG projects the city would need to add another 1,120 owner-occupied housing units and 1,042 renter-occupied units.

It is worth noting that between 2013 and 2018, the city lost 457 housing units. Given that loss of housing units, the city would fall short of the target needed to accommodate the projected population and household counts if current trends held steady through 2025. This is particularly true for households at or below 30% of AMI, which currently experience a shortage of affordable housing.

Table 5

2025 Projections if 2018 Household Composition Held Constant		
Household Size	Households	% of Total
1-person household	809	37%
2-person household	711	33%
3-person household	314	15%
4-person household	170	8%
5-or-more person household	158	7%
Total	2,162	100%
Source: ESRI, ACS 2013, 2018, RKG Associates		

Table-5 reflects the allocation of households by household size for the projected new families across the city. This allocation assumes that trends will remain constant out to the year 2025. For example, in 2018, 17% of all households were 1-person, and 20% were 2-person. These percentages are applied similarly to the total households projected for 2025, resulting in 1,520 additional 1- and 2-person households over the next five years. Since 3, 4, and 5+ person households comprise a lower percentage of the city's household composition, those percentages are lower than 1- and 2-person households.

Table 6

2025 Projections if 2018 Household Composition Held Constant				
Household Size	Owner Households	Total % of Owner	Renter Households	Total % of Renter
1-person household	372	33%	437	42%
2-person household	424	38%	287	28%
3-person household	165	15%	150	14%
4-person household	92	8%	78	7%
5-or-more person household	68	6%	91	9%
Total	1,120	100%	1,042	100%

Source: ESRI, ACS 2013, 2018, RKG Associates

Table-6 breaks down the number of owner and renter households by household size. With housing tenure held at 52/48 split based on 2018 data, there is a projected need for an additional 1,120 owner-occupied housing units and 1,042 renter-occupied housing units through the year 2025. The new households are skewed toward one- and two-person households are the two predominant household size categories in Roanoke as of 2018.

Based on the projection data, the City of Roanoke needs to consider increasing the production of smaller units to accommodate the increase in 1 and 2-person households. In addition to housing production, the city should consider implementing rehabilitation programs to bring older owner and renter housing units up to the standards.

Table 7

HUD Income Limits Persons in Family								
Income Limit Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low (30%) Income Limits (\$)	\$16,100	\$18,400	\$21,720	\$26,200	\$30,680	\$35,160	\$39,640	\$44,120
(50%) Income Limits (\$)	\$26,850	\$30,700	\$34,550	\$38,350	\$41,450	\$44,500	\$47,600	\$50,650
Income Limits(\$)	\$42,950	\$49,100	\$55,250	\$61,350	\$66,300	\$71,200	\$76,100	\$81,000

Table-7 shows the HUD low-income persons in a family. Low and moderate incomes are based on percentages of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) and adjusted for household size. Growth in housing prices coupled with slower or stagnant income growth contributes to a housing affordability problem known as the housing cost burden. HUD defines housing cost burden as the condition in which households spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing. When low- or moderate-income households are spending more than 50% of their income on housing costs, they are severely housing cost burdened.

Table 8

Table 8: Housing Cost Burden Overview, Roanoke City, 2012-2016						
Cost Burden	Owner Households		Renter Households		Total Households	
	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total
<= 30%	16,235	73%	10,225	50%	26,460	62%
>30% to <=50%	3,490	16%	4,555	22%	8,045	19%
>50%	2,235	10%	5,030	25%	7,265	17%
Cost burden not available	190	1%	580	3%	770	2%
Total:	22,155	100%	20,385	100%	42,540	100%
Source: HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data; Note: Totals may not sum due to statistical error in CHAS data; and RKG Assoc.						

Nineteen percent (19%) of the households pay between 30% to 50% of their income for housing. The table also shows 17% of the households pay more than 50% of their income for housing. This is an indication of severe cost burden. Table 8 also shows 47 (22%+25%) percent of renters in the city pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

Table 9

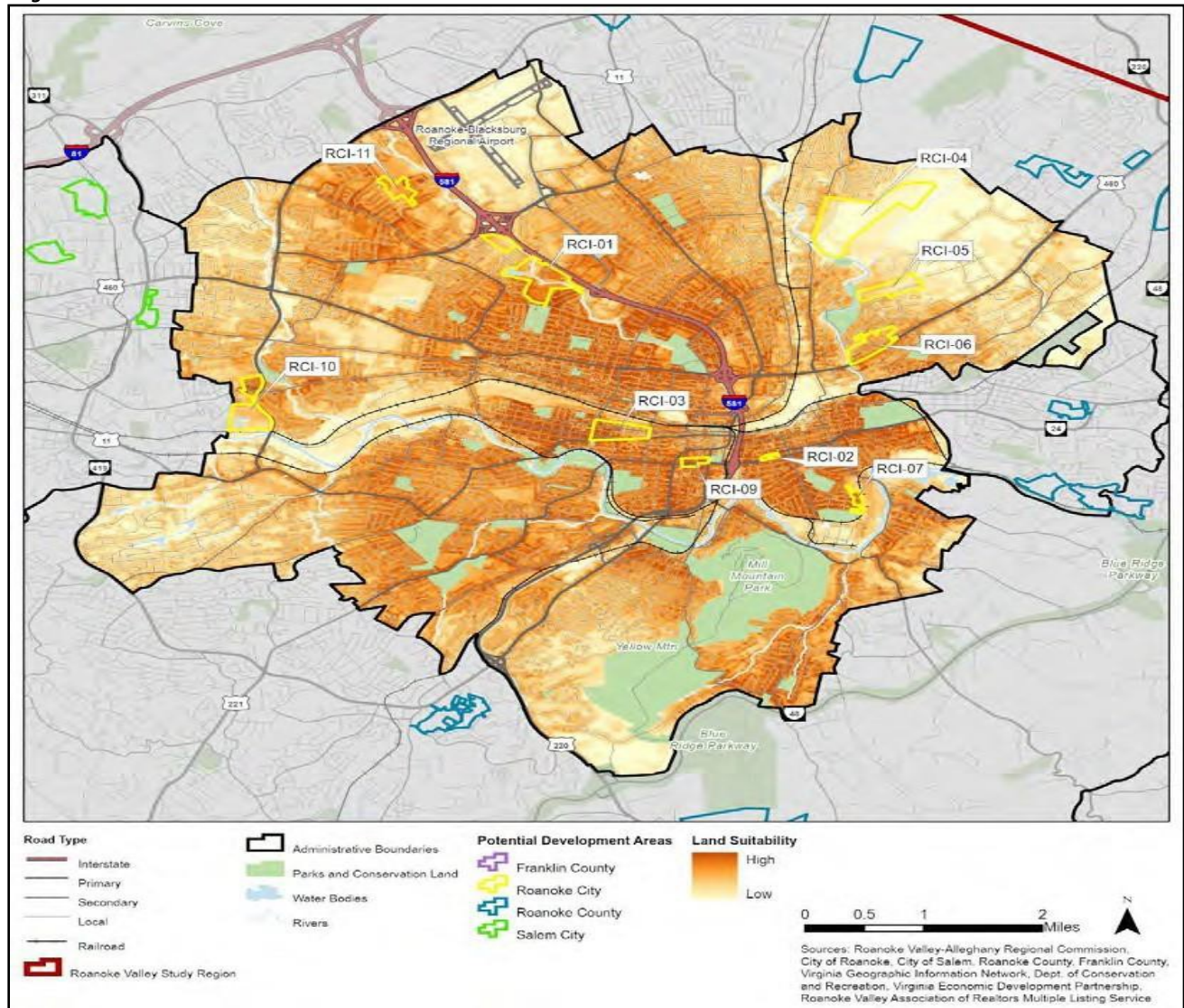
Table 9: Renter Price to Affordability Comparison						
Category	Income Threshold	Renter Households	Percent	Monthly Rent	Rental Units	Surplus/Deficit
30% AMI	\$21,720	7,565	37.4%	\$543	3,996	-3,569
50% AMI	\$34,550	3,859	19.1%	\$864	7,530	3,671
80% AMI	\$55,250	3,585	17.7%	\$1,381	7,416	3,831

Table-9 shows at 30% of AMI, there is a 3,569 unit deficit between the available units and demand. This shows that people with 30% of AMI must pay more than 30% of their income for rent. People that make 0-30% AMI are facing a significant shortage in housing that can contribute to putting this segment of the population in danger of homelessness due to affordability.

Future Developments

Figure 1 (below) shows the locations of the selected potential development sites (with yellow lines). Areas of higher suitability are concentrated closer to downtown Roanoke and extend east and west between the two main railway corridors. Neighborhoods between Orange Avenue NW and Route 581 also showed high suitability. The lowest suitability areas were generally located closer to the city's perimeter, around the airport and existing industrial parks, and in areas with slope or infrastructure limitations (RKG Associates).

Figure 1



Barriers to Redevelopment

- **Lower Household Incomes** – With a median household income of \$43,028 and 30% of households having a median income of less than \$25,000 a year, spending power on housing purchases or rents is limited for many. As housing prices and rents continue to climb, the need for affordable units grows. The lower incomes of many households in the city can be a market barrier to producing housing in a city environment where costs are often higher.
- **Housing Prices and Comparable Units** – With a citywide median sales price of \$147,000, the construction of new single-family homes or significant rehabilitation of homes in existing neighborhoods with lower housing values could be challenging for some developers/builders. Combining the purchase price of the house/land, demolition of the structure and construction of a new home could put the new home's sales price above localized comps in the neighborhood.
- **Acquisition and Rehabilitation** - There are also challenges for potential buyers of homes that need rehabilitation work. In areas where housing rehabilitation has not occurred, and home values are lower, it can be difficult for lenders to find comparable properties to justify a combined rehab and acquisition loan.
- **Design District Regulations** – The city has designated specific neighborhoods for priority conservation areas or targeted rehabilitation. Neighborhoods like Melrose-Rugby, Washington Park, Evans Spring and Morningside fall under the city's Rehabilitation designation but are also covered under the Neighborhood Design District Overlay. This overlay district was designed in response to neighborhood concerns that new construction was incompatible with the design features of existing homes. The city may wish to audit the Design District standards and determine if any create a financial barrier to either significant rehabilitation efforts or new construction.
- **Adaptive Reuse and Code Compliance** – Adapting older buildings to meet today's building codes and accessibility requirements can be very expensive, particularly for those buildings that could host a mix of uses. Improvements such as adding sprinklers, providing elevator access to upper floors and making accessibility improvements often require a large amount of upfront capital that may take a long time to recapture in an area with lower residential and commercial rents. These required improvements can sometimes force property owners to keep upper stories vacant or limit the ability to fit out spaces for a different mix of tenants.

Proposed Housing Solutions

The current and past research (including recent study by The RKG Associates) proposed the following solutions among others:

- **Developer Recruitment** - The City and local partners should create market materials advertising the preeminent development sites to the development community.
- **Leverage City Land for Housing Production** - Disposing of available City-owned properties to support housing production, particularly mixed-income or affordable housing, can be an effective way of partnering with developers.
- **Preserve Existing Affordable Housing** - Housing production is not the only way to advance housing goals in the city; a successful housing strategy also relies on the ability to maintain the affordable housing that exists today. One way the city could take a more proactive role in housing preservation is to require property owners or managers of deed restricted affordable housing units/buildings to provide advance notification to the city if affordability restrictions are about to expire.
- **Consider Inclusionary Zoning** - Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) is a policy used to create affordable housing by requiring developers to include a specific percentage set aside of below-market units as part of a market-rate rental or ownership development.
- **Encourage Universal Design** - Given the increases in the senior population, the city and local partners should encourage (at a minimum) some percentage of new units to include universal design features. Universal design focuses on making the unit safe and accessible for everyone.
- **Residential Rehabilitation Program** - In many parts of the city there are older homes with lower values that have likely not been kept up or invested in. These homes may need minor or major rehabilitation, and if owned by low- to moderate income householders, may not have the funds on hand to maintain the structure.
- **Heavily-subsidized Housing** - The city must plan for the creation of approximately 3500 heavily subsidized housing/SRO for people with 0-30% AMI and also provide tenant-based rental assistance to fund these units.

Homelessness Overview Based on PIT Count

The Point-in-time (PIT) count data is presented in aggregate. Stakeholder interviews focus on the City of Roanoke's needs, capacity, gaps, and solutions. The following section will review previous research and statistics based on annual PIT counts from 2020 to 2022 (Blue Ridge Continuum of Care, 2022). City staff, housing providers and service providers in the city believe the PIT count underestimates the true extent of homelessness in the city and surrounding areas. The TRG study of homelessness in 2022 confirms this view. The more accurate Continuum of Care (CoC)/HMIS data will be presented later in the report.

Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness

In 2022 there were 28 chronically homeless individuals counted. Chronic homelessness refers to an individual or family where the head of household has a disability and has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years. The combined length of time homeless is at least 12 months. Chronic homelessness is challenging because individuals and families in this category typically have a mental illness, substance use disorder or other underlying barriers resulting in their homelessness and requiring intense service interventions. Reducing chronic homelessness has been a priority for the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care. New strategies and targeted resources have been introduced as part of the system's transformation that started in 2012. One such approach is using a "by-name" list where case managers from various service providers come together regularly to identify the needs of the chronically homeless and prioritize housing placements utilizing objective scoring tools designed to measure vulnerability and level of service needs. Individuals with the most severe conditions are prioritized for housing and services.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness in 2022 decreased by 29.6% in the past year and has declined by 73.6% since 2012. The efforts to end veteran homelessness and Roanoke's participation brought additional attention and expanded resources to ending homelessness among the veteran population. In 2022 there were 19 veterans counted, two were unsheltered and four were identified as chronically homeless.

The impact of rapid re-housing strategies on families has been somewhat researched and shows effectiveness. The Family Options Study published by HUD in 2015 showed that rapid re-housing reduced episodes of homelessness in emergency shelters and that both housing subsidies and rapid re-housing services were cost-effective. Throughout 2012 to 2022, the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care's efforts to reduce family homelessness through rapid re-housing housing and other interventions have shown both cost and program effectiveness. Since 2012, homelessness among households was reduced from 50 households in 2012 to 10 families in 2022, an 80.0% reduction. The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness has declined by 77.3% over the same period (from 132 in 2012 to 30 in 2022).

Homeless PIT Count Characteristics

According to Point-in-Time (PIT) data (Table-10), in 2022, there were 216 homeless individuals in the area, which includes Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and other localities. Table-10 also shows 38 unsheltered people. We will see later in this report that this number underestimates the actual number of homeless.

Table 10

Program	Number of individuals in families	Number of individuals in households without children	Number of veterans	Number of chronically homeless	Number of youth	Total Number of individuals
ARCH BRBH	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARCH Families and Single	0	9	0	5	0	9
ARCH Veterans Housing/GPD	0	9	9	3	0	9
CCS Isolation	0	19	0	0	1	19
Family Promise Housing for Families with Children	8	0	0	0	0	8
Rescue Mission Men's Shelter	0	21	1	4	0	21
Rescue Women & Children's Center (WCC)	8	45	2	11	5	53
Rescue Mission Cold Weather	0	43	5	2	1	43
Safe Home Systems	0	1	0	0	0	1
TAP DVS	5	0	0	2	0	5
Turning Point	9	1	0	1	1	10
Unsheltered	0	38	2	11	2	38
Totals	30	186	19	39	10	216

Table 11

Homeless Categories	Emergency Shelter	Unsheltered	Total
Persons in households without children	183	30	213
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	63	0	63
Persons in households with only children	0	0	0
Total Homeless Persons	246	30	276
Source: BIRCH Point-in-Time Date, 2020, RKG			

Table-11 shows there are 183 persons in households with only adults. Persons in families with children accounted for 63 persons. There were 276 persons experiencing homeless in the 2020 PIT count.

Table 12

Household	Sheltered	Unsheltered	2022	2021
Persons (Adults and Children)	178	38	216	250
Children under 18	20	0	20	35
Young Adults 18-24	8	2	10	4
Adults	150	36	186	211

Table-12 shows for 2022, there are 178 sheltered homeless and 38 unsheltered individuals. The total number of homeless is 216 in 2022. The total number of homeless is 250 in 2021. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Roanoke Region decreased by 13.6% (250 in 2021 and 216 in 2022). There is also a decline from 2020 (276) to 2021 (250). Ten unaccompanied homeless youth between 18 and 24 were counted in January 2022. Two of the ten individuals were unsheltered.

Table 13

Gender	Sheltered	Unsheltered	2022	2021	Change
Female	73	11	84	82	2.4%
Male	100	27	127	166	-23.5%
Transgender	2	0	2	0	200.0%

The 2022 PIT data shows an increase in women in shelters from 82 (2021) to 84. This table shows a total of 127 males and 84 females homeless in 2022.

Table 14

Veterans	Sheltered	Unsheltered	2022	2021	Change
Household #	17	2	19	27	-29.6%
Persons	17	2	19	28	-32.1%
Veterans	17	2	19	27	-29.6%

Table-14 displays veteran counts. In January 2022, 19 veterans were experiencing homelessness, representing a decrease of 29.6% over 2021 (27). All nineteen (19) veterans were homeless in households without children. Four veterans were chronically homeless, and two were unsheltered.

Table 15

Race	Sheltered	Unsheltered	2022	2021	Change
White	102	18	120	150	-20.0%
Black	60	10	70	77	-9.1%
Asian	6	0	6	2	200.0%
American Indian	0	1	1	4	-75.0%
Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	N/C
Multi Race	4	0	4	10	-60.0%
Do not know	1	0	1	0	100.0%
Missing	5	9	14	7	100.0%

Table-15 provides a breakdown by race. The data shows that most homeless are White (120). The number of homeless among the white and black populations has declined from 2021 to 2022.

Table-16

Chronically Homeless	Sheltered	Unsheltered	2022	2021	Change
Households	27	11	38	56	-32.1%
Persons	28	11	39	56	-30.4%

Table-16 data shows there were 39 individuals in households with chronic patterns of homelessness. Chronic homelessness decreased by 30 percent between 2021 (56) and 2022 (39). Chronic homelessness has decreased by 73.8 percent since 2012 (149).

Table 17

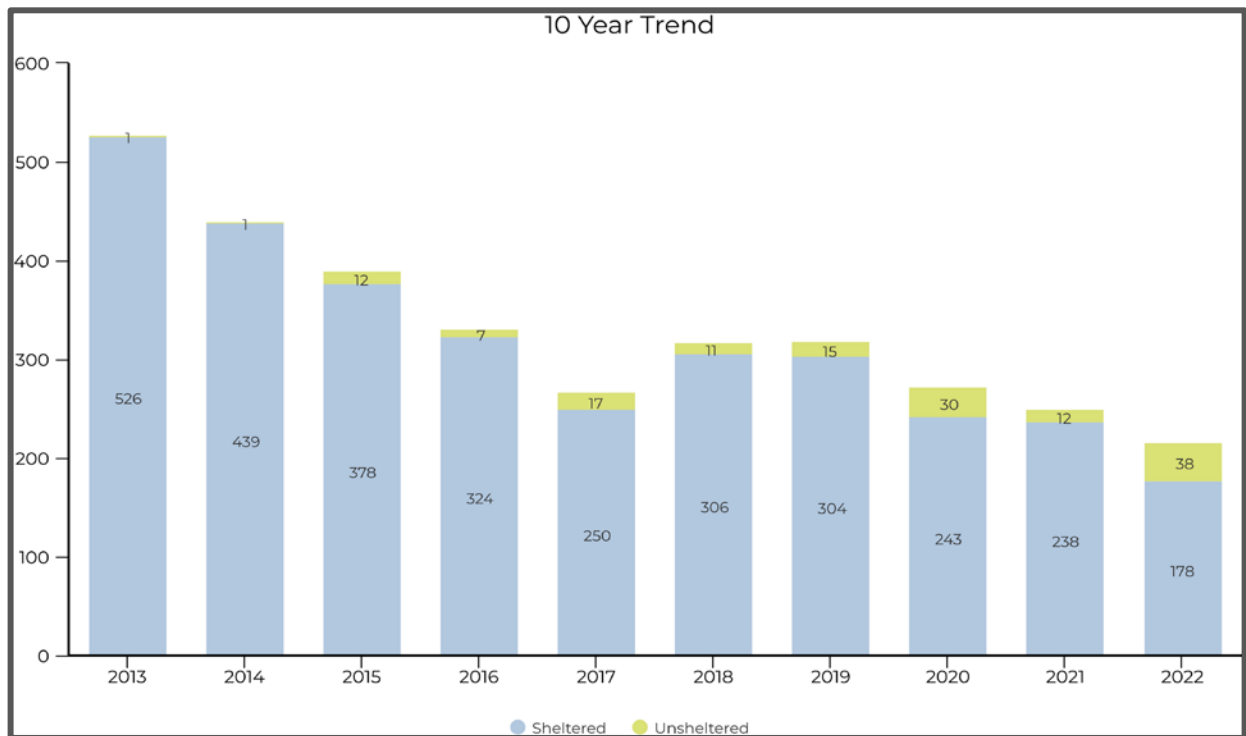
	Sheltered - 2022	Unsheltered - 2022
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	52	15
Adults with a Substance-use Disorder	27	7
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0	1
Adults Survivors of Domestic Violence	38	8

Table 17 provides a breakdown of those experiencing mental illness and substance use disorder. Mental illness, substance use disorder, and domestic violence are among the leading issues affecting adults experiencing homelessness.

The primary reasons for homelessness in the Roanoke area, according to 2022 PIT data, are the following:

1. Relationship Conflict (17%)
2. Domestic Violence (16%)
3. Loss of Job (10%)
4. Lack of Affordable Housing (9%)
5. Underemployment/Low-income (8%)
6. Substance Abuse (7%)
7. Conflict with Landlord (6%)
8. Release from Institution (5%)
9. Mental Health (5%)
10. Death of Family/Friend (5%)
11. Health/Safety (3%)
12. Doubled-up & Must Leave (3%)
13. Medical Condition (2%)
14. Loss of Housing Subsidy (2%)
15. Criminal Activity (2%)

Table 18



Between 2012 and 2022, the number of people experiencing homelessness has been decreased by 61% from 561 to 216.

Table 19

Program	Number of individuals in families	Number of individuals in households without children	Number of Veterans	Number of Chronically Homeless	Number of Youth	Total number of individuals
ARCH BRBH	0	1	0	0	0	1
ARCH Families and Single Women	0	5	1	1	0	5
ARCH Veterans Housing/GPD Contract	0	12	12	5	0	12
Family Promise Housing for Families with Children	7	0	0	0	0	7
Rescue Mission Men's Shelter	0	62	7	14	0	62
Rescue Mission Women & Children's Center (WCC)	14	31	2	9	5	45
Safe Home Systems	3	0	0	0	2	3
Turning Point	13	4	0	1	0	17
Unsheltered	0	46	4	0	1	46
Totals:	37	161	26	30	8	198

Table 20

Program	Number of individuals in families	Number of individuals in households without children	Number of Veterans	Number of Youth	Number of Chronically Homeless	Total number of individuals
ARCH BRBH	0	3	0	0	0	3
ARCH Hall Bed	0	1	0	0	0	1
ARCH Families and Single Women	0	10	2	1	2	10
ARCH Veterans Housing/GPD Contract	0	10	10	0	3	10
Family Promise Housing for Families with Children	13	0	0	0	0	13
Rescue Mission Men's Shelter	0	96	10	6	17	96
Rescue Mission Women & Children's Center (WCC)	22	48	3	1	8	70
Safe Home Systems	7	1	0	0	0	8
Turning Point	15	2	1	0	0	17
Unsheltered	0	39	5	1	3	39
Totals:	57	210	31	9	33	267

Comparing the PIT count of 2022 and the Summer PIT count of 2021 (Tables 19 and 20) indicates the PIT counts were higher in the winter (198 in the summer of 2021 compared to 216 in the winter of 2022). The PIT Counts in 2019 and 2020 also reflect higher counts in the winter. count of 2020 (276) to the summer PIT Count of 2019 (267). This is different from the widely held belief that PIT Counts are higher in the warmer months. The current PIT Count data reveals an increase the number of unsheltered homeless people. The 2021 summer PIT count shows 46 unsheltered homeless.

Table 21

Homeless Housing Inventory in Roanoke County, and the City of Roanoke and Salem							
Unit Types	Family Units	Family Beds	Adult-Only Beds	Child-Only Beds	Total Year-Round Beds	Seasonal	Overflow/Voucher
Emergency, Haven and Transitional Housing	26	161	288	0	449	0	2
Emergency Shelter	26	161	288	0	449	0	2
Permanent Housing	29	48	133	0	277	0	0
Permanent Supportive Housing	17	8	94	0	198	N/A	N/A
Rapid Re-Housing	12	40	39	0	79	N/A	N/A
Total	55	209	421	0	726	0	2
Source: HUD Housing Inventory County Study, VA-502 Roanoke City & County, Salem Continuum of Care (CoC), 2019 – RKG							

Table-21 is a homeless housing inventory for Roanoke and surrounding areas. It shows the total of 726 total beds in the inventory of CoC in 2019. The data shows more capacity than homeless persons, with 276 homeless in 2020 and 250 in 2021, compared to 726 beds in 2019. However, this is misleading. There is a mismatch between capacity and homeless. Most homeless need

one- or two-person accommodation, but sometimes capacity is for 3 to 8 persons. This creates extra capacity (empty space) that is not useable by other people. Based on data provided by CoC 2019, there were a total of 726 beds available for homeless individuals, with 62% (449) of beds found in emergency shelters and 38% (277) of the beds located in permanent housing facilities. There are 421 adult-only beds in the region.

Table 22

Homeless Housing Inventory in Roanoke County, and the City of Roanoke and Salem					
Unit Types	Family Beds	Adult-Only Beds	Child-Only Beds	Total Year-Round Beds	Seasonal
Emergency, Haven and Transitional Housing	163	339	0	507	41
Emergency Shelter	163	339	0	507	41
Permanent Housing	43	173	0	216	0
Permanent Supportive Housing	9	126	0	135	N/A
Rapid Re-Housing	34	47	0	81	N/A
Total	206	512	0	723	41
Source: CoC inventory 2022					

Based on data in 2022, there were 723 beds available for homeless individuals, with 507 beds found in emergency shelters and 216 in permanent housing facilities. There are 512 adult-only beds in the region. The total capacity has remained the same between 2019-2022 (726 compared to 723).

Homelessness Challenges

Table 23 - 2022 Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)		
	Submitted FY 2020	FY 2021	Submitted FY 2020	FY 2021	Difference	Submitted FY 2020	FY 2021	Difference
1.1 Persons in ES and SH	1398	992	60	84	24	33	39	6
1.2 Persons in ES, SH, and TH	1398	992	60	84	24	33	39	6

Increase in lengths of homelessness-the average length of time individuals spent homeless in the area increased from 2020 to 2021. CoC believes due to pandemic-related shutdowns and low turnover in rental units, it was difficult for individuals experiencing homelessness to locate and move into housing. Access to affordable rental housing continues to be a significant challenge for low-income people. This is especially noticeable for people with 0-30% AMI. Lower staffing among homeless service providers has also contributed to this increase.

Table 24 - 2022 Retention of Permanent Housing

	Total # of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Returns to Homelessness in Less than 6 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 6 to 12 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 13 to 24 Months		Number of Returns in 2 Years	
		FY 2021	% of Returns	FY 2021	% of Returns	FY 2021	% of Returns	FY 2021	% of Returns
Exit was from SO	200	44	22%	11	6%	10	5%	65	33%
Exit was from ES	289	39	13%	24	8%	15	5%	78	27%
Exit was from TH	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from SH	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from PH	165	16	10%	8	5%	7	4%	31	19%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	654	99	15%	43	7%	32	5%	174	27%

Returns to homelessness increased – return rates to homelessness increased from 23.1% in 2019 to 27% in 2021. Inflation, rising housing costs and the overall financial impacts of the pandemic were likely contributors to these numbers. These factors have created unprecedented challenges for those with the least financial resources in the community. The City should continue monitoring this issue to see if there are other causes related to this problem.

Table 25

Exit to Housing	2020	2021	Change
Universe – person who exit street outreach	487	380	-107
Of persons above, those who exited to temporary and some institutional destinations	38	30	-8
Of persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	161	89	-82
% Successful exits	41%	31%	-10%

Table 25 shows that the number of successful exits from homelessness to permanent housing declined between 2020 and 2021.

The PIT Count data shows that the area is making progress in reducing overall homelessness; however, additional information in this report will be provided regarding the size of homelessness in the city. The following are the areas the city which showed improvement:

Permanent housing placements from street outreach increased – permanent housing placements from the community’s street outreach programs have increased yearly since 2019. The percentage of unsheltered individuals exiting street outreach programs to permanent housing destinations risen from 13.1% in 2019 to 28% in 2021.

Increasing Street Outreach Capacity – the City of Roanoke is hired two new, full-time HAT case managers using CARES Act funds through the City’s Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV). These two new case managers will increase the number of case managers with the City’s Homeless Assistance Team (HAT) from three to five and will significantly expand the capacity of the community to provide housing-focused case management services to unsheltered individuals.

Medical and Mental Health Street Outreach through the Fralin Clinic – the Roanoke Rescue Mission has begun street outreach through its Fralin Free Clinic to bring medical care and mental health services to clients in the field. This outreach work has also built relationships between Mission staff and unsheltered individuals, resulting in additional individuals choosing to access shelter services. Fralin Clinic staff also participate in the community’s unsheltered case conferencing meeting with community partners to coordinate housing solutions for this population.

New Housing Resources for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence – Total Action for Progress (TAP) Domestic Violence Services (DVS) implemented a new transitional housing program for individuals fleeing domestic violence. With funding secured through the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, the project has provided transitional housing services to 38 high-risk families since the program began in 2019. Thirty-six (36) of these families exited the program to permanent and non-permanent housing destinations, with only two returning to their abusers.

Homeless Preference Implemented for Voucher Programs – in 2020, the community worked with the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) to implement a “homeless preference” for the RRHA’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Mainstream Voucher programs. CoC partners can now make referrals at any time, regardless of the status of the RRHA’s public application process, to the voucher programs through our community’s Coordinated Entry System. CoC partners developed prioritization criteria for referrals that help ensure these resources are utilized by those most vulnerable and in need.

Extent of Homelessness Based on CoC, HMIS, and Interviews

The following section shows additional and more accurate statistics related to the homeless issue from HMIS. The RKG housing study and TRG homeless findings are compatible. The lack of adequate, affordable housing for people with less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) increases homelessness and the risk of homelessness in the City of Roanoke.

Table 26 - PIT Count

NUMBER OF HOMELESS ACCORDING TO ANNUAL PIT COUNT				
	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS	TOTAL
2021 PIT	238	12	435	685
2022 PIT	178	38	501	717

(NOTE: At-risk of homelessness is not collected for the PIT report. These numbers were generated by pulling how many active clients were receiving homelessness prevention services on the date of the PIT count.)

The table above and those below show the number of unsheltered individuals according to PIT count and HMIS data. The HMIS data shows a much more accurate picture of the extent of homelessness in the city and surrounding area. The data shows 858 unsheltered clients were served in 2021-2022. The PIT count indicates the number of unsheltered homeless at 38. While the PIT Count represents a snapshot of homeless individuals on a specific date, this number would represent how many clients the Street Outreach programs made contact with over the course of an entire year.

Table 27 - HMIS Unsheltered

NUMBER OF UNDUPLICATED UNSHELTERED CLIENTS SERVED BY STREET OUTREACH PROGRAMS (NOTE: These client totals were generated using a CAPER Report – a reporting format provided by the HMIS System)		
	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
BRBH - PATH - Street Outreach	35	33
City of Roanoke - HAT	612	825
TOTAL UNDUPLICATED	647	858

While the PIT Count represents a snapshot of homeless individuals on a specific date, this number would represent how many clients the Street Outreach programs made contact with over the course of an entire year.

Table 28

NUMBER OF UNDUPLICATED SHELTERED CLIENTS SERVED BY SHELTERS (NOTE: These client totals were generated using a CAPER Report - a reporting format provided by the HMIS System)			
Fiscal Year (FY) - July 1 - June 30			
	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	
ARCH - ES - BRBH Beds	0	7	
ARCH - ES - Families and Single Women	4	49	
ARCH - ES - Veteran Housing (Contract)	10	63	
Family Promise - Housing for Families with Children (FPGR)	61	40	
Quarantine - Trust House	18	1	
Temporary Placement - Motel 6	169	0	These were all temporary shelter programs used in the emergency response to COVID-19
Temporary Placement - Ramada Inn	1	0	
Temporary Placement - Super 8	28	0	
CHRC - DHCD - CHERP - COVID Quarantine Hotel	0	47	
Roanoke Rescue Mission - Men's Shelter	317	472	
Roanoke Rescue Mission - WCC	322	387	
Roanoke Rescue Mission - Cold Weather Shelter	215	29	
TOTAL UNDUPLICATED:	1145	1095	

Table 28 shows the number of sheltered homeless at 1095 in 2021-2022. The HMIS indicates the number of homeless is much more significant than captured by the PIT count (216). There is a total of 1953 homeless in 2021-2022 (sheltered and unsheltered).

Table-29

Risk of Homelessness		
	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
CHRC - CDBG – Prevention	9	79
CHRC - CDBG - Prevention - CARES Act	0	19
CHRC - DHCD – Prevention	102	63
CHRC - DHCD - Prevention - CARES Act	87	0
CHRC - ESG - Prevention - City of Roanoke	34	61
CHRC - Housing Assistance - Short-Term	80	76
Family Promise – Prevention	8	30
Family Promise - Prevention - EFSP (FPGR)	21	9
Legal Aid ESG-CV Prevention	2	0
TAP-HP - CDBG-CV Prevention (Roanoke City only)	0	59
TAP-HP - ESG-CV Prevention (Roanoke City only)	98	93
TAP-HP - Virginia Homeless Solutions Program	328	321
TAP-SSVF - Prevention (TAP)	76	39
UW SafetyNet (TAP)	3	3
TOTAL UNDUPLICATED:	848	852

(NOTE: These client totals were generated using a CAPER Report - a reporting format provided by the HMIS System).

The data in Table-29 shows the number of clients at risk of homelessness at 852 in 2021-2022. The number of unsheltered (858), the sheltered (1095), and the number of people at risk of homelessness (852) total 2805. This data supports the RKG housing study suggestion that the city needs 3569 additional units to help people with income below 30% area income. The homeless research and interviews by TRG show that these units should be rental.

Table 30

SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE				
Project Type	Organization	Project Name	Bed Type	Total
Emergency Shelter	ARCH Services	ARCH - ES - BRBH Beds (ARCH - ES - BRBH Beds)	Facility-based	2
Emergency Shelter	ARCH Services	ARCH - ES - Families and Single Women	Facility-based	10
Emergency Shelter	ARCH Services	ARCH - ES - Veteran Housing (Contract)	Facility-based	15
Emergency Shelter	Family Promise of Greater Roanoke (FPGR)	Family Promise - Housing for Families with Children (FPGR)	Other	14
Emergency Shelter	Rescue Mission of Roanoke, Inc.	Roanoke Rescue Mission - Cold Weather Shelter	Facility-based	43
Emergency Shelter	Rescue Mission of Roanoke, Inc.	Roanoke Rescue Mission - Men's Shelter	Facility-based	127
Emergency Shelter	Rescue Mission of Roanoke, Inc.	Roanoke Rescue Mission - WCC	Facility-based	98
Emergency Shelter	SafeHome Systems Inc.	SafeHome Systems - Emergency Shelter	Facility-based	16
Emergency Shelter	Salvation Army	Turning Point	Facility-based	60
Emergency Shelter	Total Action for Progress (TAP)	Domestic Violence Services (DVS) - Emergency Shelter	Scattered-site	5
TOTAL SHELTER BEDS:				390

In Table 30, data shows the number of emergency shelter beds at 390. Most of the beds are Facility-based. There are 5 scattered-site accommodations available.

Table 31 – Rental Housing Assistance Projects – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Project Type	Organization	Project Name	Bed Type	Total
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required)	ARCH Services	ARCH - PSH - Healing Haven (ARCH PSH - Healing Haven)	Scattered-site	31
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required)	ARCH Services	ARCH - PSH - Heroes Haven (ARCH PSH - Heroes Haven)	Scattered-site	7
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required)	Department of Veterans Affairs	Dept. of Veterans Affairs - PSH - HUD-VASH	Scattered-site	97
TOTAL PSH VOUCHER PLACEMENTS:				135

Table 32 – Rental Housing Assistance Projects – Rapid-Re-Housing (RRH)

Project Type	Organization	Project Name	Bed Type	Total
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	ARCH Services	ARCH - New Beginnings	Scattered-site	5
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	Council of Community Services (CCS)	CHRC - DHCD - Rapid Re-housing	Scattered-site	9
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	Council of Community Services (CCS)	CHRC - DHCD - Rapid Re-housing – CHERP	Scattered-site	1
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	Council of Community Services (CCS)	CHRC - ESG - Rapid Re-housing - City of Roanoke	Scattered-site	1
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	Council of Community Services (CCS)	CHRC - Virginia Housing Trust Fund - Rapid Re-Housing	Scattered-site	42
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	Total Action for Progress (TAP)	TAP-SSVF - Rapid-Rehousing (TAP)	Scattered-site	6
TOTAL RRH ASSISTANCE PLACEMENTS:				64

Table 33 – Rental Housing Assistance Projects – PSH – Disability Required

Project Type	Organization	Project Name	Bed Type	Total
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (disability required for entry)	Council of Community Services (CCS)	CHRC - Housing Assistance - Tenant-Based	Scattered-site	10

Table 34 – Rental Housing Assistance Projects – Emergency Housing Vouchers

Project Type	Organization	Project Name	Bed Type	Total
PH- Housing Only	Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority	RRHA – Emergency Housing Vouchers	Scattered-site	26

Table-35 – Total Housing Capacity for People Experiencing Homelessness

Project Type	All Year-Round Beds/Units for Households...															Seasonal Beds	Total Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
	with Children						without Children					with only Children < 18							
	Beds	Units	HMIS Beds	Vet Beds	Youth Beds	Chronic Beds	Beds	HMIS Beds	Vet Beds	Youth Beds	Chronic Beds	Beds	HMIS Beds	Chronic Beds	Beds	HMIS Beds			
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0%
Emergency Shelter	2	1	2	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9	90%
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	9	60%
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	100%
Emergency Shelter	14	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	57%
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	41	43	43	100%
Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	21	9%
Emergency Shelter	98	98	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	53	54%
Emergency Shelter	15	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	1	6%
Emergency Shelter	34	7	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	10	17%
Emergency Shelter	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	100%
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	100%
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	100%
PH - Permanent Supportive Housing	9	3	9	9	0	0	88	88	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	97	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	9	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	34	10	34	0	0	0	8	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	42	100%
PH - Rapid Re-Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	100%
PH - Housing Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	18	69%
TOTAL:																	723	395	55%

The total number of available units in the inventory is 723. This number covers all types of housing. The total number of homeless is 1953. The number of accommodations is 1230 less than the number of homeless. The number of people at risk of homelessness is 852. The total number of homeless and people at risk of homelessness is 2805.

Table-36

Primary Reason for Homelessness	Clients
Underemployment/low income	152
Relationship Conflict	115
Substance Abuse	80
No Affordable Housing	57
Other Reasons	57
Loss of Job	55
Release From Institution	52
Conflict with Landlord	51
Domestic Violence Victim	45
Mental Health	38
Doubled Up and Must Leave	29
Health/Safety	24
Substandard Housing	13
Client doesn't know	9
Death of Family/Friend	9
Criminal Activity	7
Medical Condition	5
Client refused	4
Mortgage Foreclosure	3
Loss of Benefits	2
Loss of Transportation	2
Loss of Housing Subsidy	1
Utility Shutoff	184
Data not collected	157
Not Applicable	0
Unduplicated Totals:	946

Table 36 shows that unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health illness contribute significantly to the homelessness problem in the city. TRG's interviews with housing and service providers confirms this data.

Table-37 – Gender

Homeless Sheltered 2020-2021			Homeless Sheltered 2021-2022		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
720	400	1120	671	414	1085

Table-38 – Race

Homeless Sheltered 2020-2021					Homeless Sheltered 2021-2022			
Race	American Indian	Asian	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	White
Number of Homeless	14	3	381	698	4	10	414	632

Table-39 – Ethnicity

Homeless Sheltered 2020-2021		Homeless Sheltered 2021-2022
Hispanic	15	26

Table-40 – Families

Homeless	Sheltered 2020-2021	Sheltered 2021-2022
Family: One Adult and at Least One Child	154	123

There are 1085 sheltered homeless. The sheltered data shows that most homeless are male, white, and non-Hispanic. The total number of homeless males in 2021-2022 is 671, and the number of females is 414. There are 123 sheltered homeless families with one adult and at least one child.

Table-41 – Gender

Homeless Unsheltered 2020-2021			Homeless Unsheltered 2021-2022		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
420	223	643	530	318	848

Table-42– Race

Homeless Unsheltered 2020-2021					Homeless Unsheltered 2021-2022			
Race	American Indian	Asian	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	White
Number of Homeless	8	1	229	400	10	5	322	460

Table-43 - Ethnicity

Homeless Unsheltered 2020-2021		Homeless Unsheltered 2021-2022
Hispanic	8	18

Table 44-Families

	Homeless Unsheltered 2020-2021	Unsheltered 2021-2022
Family: One adult and at least on child	35	49

The data shows the total number of unsheltered homeless is 848 in 2021-2022. Most unsheltered homeless are male, white, and non-Hispanic. There are 530 male and 318 female among unsheltered.

Table 45-Gender

At-risk of Homelessness 2020-2021			At-risk of Homelessness 2021-2022		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
364	485	849	332	508	840

Table 46-Race

Homeless	At-risk of homelessness 2020-2021				At-risk of homelessness 2021-2022			
Race	American Indian	Asian	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	White
Number of Homeless	9	8	505	320	8	8	546	277

Table 47-Ethnicity

Homeless	At risk of Homelessness 2020-2021	At risk of Homelessness 2021-2022
Hispanic	25	17

Table 48-Families

Homeless	At-risk of Homelessness 2020-2021	At-risk of Homelessness 2021-2022
Family: one adult and at least one child	577	534

The prevention data shows in 2021-2022, 840 individuals received services 508 were female, and 332 were male. The data also indicates many were in families (534). Most people receiving prevention services were female and black. Most sheltered and unsheltered homeless are male

and white.

Table 49- Survivors of Domestic Violence

2021-2022 -Domestic Violence									
	Sheltered		Unsheltered				At-risk of Homelessness		
History of Domestic Violence (Victim of DV)	213		261				41		
Race	Black	White	A-Indian	Asian	Black	White	A-Indian	Black	White
Number of DV	58	146	4	1	74	150	3	19	18

There are 213 sheltered homeless with a history of being victims of domestic violence. Among these, 58 are black, and 146 are white. There are 261 unsheltered homeless with a history of being victims of domestic violence. Among these, 4 are American Indian, one is Asian, 74 are black, and 150 are white. There are 41 people at-risk of homelessness that have a history of being victims of domestic violence. Among these, 3 are American Indian, 19 are black, and 18 are white. Most victims of domestic violence that are also homeless are White.

Table 50 - Veterans

	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Veteran	104	41

There are 145 homeless veterans among them 104 are sheltered and 41 are unsheltered.

Table-51 - Return to Homelessness 2020-2021

Measure 2a and 2b: The Extent to which Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 6, 12, and 24 months									
	Total Number of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number Returning to Homelessness in Less than 6 Months (0 - 180 d)	Percentage of Returns in Less than 6 Months (0 - 180 d)	Number Returning to Homelessness from 6 to 12 Months (181 - 365 d)	Percentage of Returns from 6 to 12 Months (181 - 365 d)	Number Returning to Homelessness from 13 to 24 Months (366 - 730 d)	Percentage of Returns from 13 to 24 Months (366 - 730 d)	Number of Returns in 2 Years	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years
Exit was from SO	219	54	24.66%	7	3.20%	18	8.22%	79	36.07%
Exit was from ES	290	43	14.83%	21	7.24%	15	5.17%	79	27.24%
Exit was from TH	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Exit was from SH	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Exit was from PH	215	13	6.05%	16	7.44%	13	6.05%	42	19.53%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	724	110	15.19%	44	6.08%	46	6.35%	200	27.62%

Table-52 - Return to Homelessness 2021-2022

Measure 2a and 2b: The Extent to which Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 6, 12, and 24 months									
	Total Number of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number Returning to Homelessness in Less than 6 Months (0 - 180 d)	Percentage of Returns in Less than 6 Months (0 - 180 d)	Number Returning to Homelessness from 6 to 12 Months (181 - 365 d)	Percentage of Returns from 6 to 12 Months (181 - 365 d)	Number Returning to Homelessness from 13 to 24 Months (366 - 730 d)	Percentage of Returns from 13 to 24 Months (366 - 730 d)	Number of Returns in 2 Years	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years
Exit was from SO	183	38	20.77%	11	6.01%	14	7.65%	63	34.43%
Exit was from ES	221	39	17.65%	12	5.43%	8	3.62%	59	26.70%
Exit was from TH	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Exit was from SH	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Exit was from PH	182	17	9.34%	9	4.95%	8	4.40%	34	18.68%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	586	94	16.04%	32	5.46%	30	5.12%	156	26.62%

Tables 51 and 52 show the rate of return to homelessness after two years is approximately 27% (2020-2022). For the city to address the homeless issue successfully, it must reduce the rate of return. The data from other parts of the U.S. and Virginia suggest that using Rapid Rehousing along with two years of support services can significantly reduce the return rate.

Table 53

Homeless													
Source: HMIS and PIT count	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds					# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	168	114	339	0	15								
Transitional Housing	0	0	0	0	0								
Permanent Supportive Housing	9	3	126	0	95								
Other Permanent Housing	43	13	47	0	10								
Sheltered Homeless						89	1095	104	213				
Unsheltered Homeless						49	858	41	261				
Current Gap										82	-8	-1441	-1953

Table 54

Non-Homeless			
Source: CAPER, HMIS, Census, RKG study	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	20,457		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	2,060		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	6845		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		7165	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		4640	
Current Gaps			5105

Narrative of Qualifying Populations

The HMIS and PIT count are the source of the following information.

Homeless

The 2021-2022 data shows a total of 1947 homeless people, according to HMIS data. There are 1095 sheltered homeless and 852 unsheltered homeless. There are 671 males sheltered homeless and 414 females.

There are 530 male unsheltered homeless and 318 females. Among the sheltered homeless, there are 414 black and 632 white. The unsheltered homeless consist of 322 black and 460 white.

Most homeless are non-Hispanic. There are 123 sheltered families with at least one adult and one child. There are 18 unsheltered families.

At risk of homelessness

The 2021-2022 data shows 840 people at risk of homelessness. Among them, there are 332 males and 508 females. Two hundred seventy-seven (277) white clients are at risk of homelessness, and 546 black clients.

Most at-risk clients are non-Hispanic. There are 534 families (one adult and at least one child) at risk of homelessness.

Domestic Violence Victims

There are 515 domestic violence victims in the homeless system. Among them, 213 are sheltered, and 261 are unsheltered. Among the sheltered clients, there are 146 white and 58 black. Among the unsheltered clients, 150 are white, and 74 are black.

Other populations

There are 145 homeless veterans; 104 are sheltered, and 41 are unsheltered. There are 192 unsheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder and 224 sheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder. They are 443 unsheltered homeless with Mental Health disorders, and there are 325 sheltered homeless with some mental health disorder. All these group are major part of the homeless population.

Homeless Resources

There are 507 beds in congregate shelters. There are 19 non-congregate shelter bed is also available. There are 135 Permanent Supportive Housing and 64 Rapid Re-housing (scattered Site). There are 26 voucher assistance and 10 TBRA assistance. There are 723 beds available.

Unmet Housing and Service

Homeless and at risk of homelessness - There are 2805 clients that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There are only 723 beds including emergency congregate beds available. There is immediate need for assistance for 2082 persons. Table 52 shows that 19% of the households pay between 30% to 50% of their income for housing. The table also shows 25% of renters pay more than 50% of their income for housing.

Table 55

Housing Cost Burden Overview, Roanoke City, 2012-2016						
Cost Burden	Owner Households		Renter Households		Total Households	
	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total	Est.	% of Total
<= 30%	16,235	73%	10,225	50%	26,460	62%
>30% to <=50%	3,490	16%	4,555	22%	8,045	19%
>50%	2,235	10%	5,030	25%	7,265	17%
Cost burden not available	190	1%	580	3%	770	2%
Total:	22,155	100%	20,385	100%	42,540	100%
Source: RKG , HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data; Note: Totals may not sum due to statistical error in CHAS data.						

Table 56

Renter Price to Affordability Comparison						
Category	Income Threshold	Renter Households	Percent	Monthly Rent	Rental Units	Surplus/Deficit
30% AMI	\$21,720	7,565	37.4%	\$543	3,996	-3,569
50% AMI	\$34,550	3,859	19.1%	\$864	7,530	3,671
80% AMI	\$55,250	3,585	17.7%	\$1,381	7,416	3,831
100% AMI	\$76,700	598	3.0%	\$1,918	860	262
120% AMI	\$82,875	2,285	11.3%	\$2,072	108	-2,177
120%+ AMI	\$82,876	2,362	11.7%	\$2,072	344	-2,018
Source: ACS 2014-2018, HUD – RKG						

Tables 55 and 56 show at 30% of AMI, there is a 3,569 unit's deficit between the available units and demand. This shows that people with 30% of AMI must pay more than 30% of their income for rent. People that make 0-30% AMI are facing a significant shortage in housing that can contribute to putting this segment of the population in danger of homelessness due to affordability. The number of people at risk of homelessness is 852 compare to 38 reported in the last PIT count.

Domestic Violence - Domestic violence is one of the categories that contributes to homelessness. There are 515 clients with Domestic Violence history in the system. There is only five scattered site housing with both housing and comprehensive services in the City. There is significant deficit in housing and services for domestic violence victims in the system. The City need housing and other services for over 500 Domestic violence victims in the City.

Other Populations - Mental illness is another category that contributes to homelessness. There are 443 unsheltered homeless with some Mental Health disorders, and 325 sheltered homeless with some mental health disorder. There are 192 unsheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder and 224 sheltered homeless with substance abuse disorder. These group are major part of the homeless population. There are no organized services for these population. There is only one clinic with outreach to these populations. The City needs housing and organized mental health services for over 800 clients. The city also needs over 400 accommodation and related services for people with substance abuse disorder.

Table 57

Identifying priority needs for qualifying populations						
Sub population	Veterans and family / Housing and services	Elderly / Housing and services	Disable / Housing and services	Domestic Violence / Housing and services	Mentally ill / Housing and services	Substance abuse disorder
Priority	High	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Medium

The interviews with local providers show that the above qualifying populations should receive both housing and comprehensive service priority in locations accessible by the subpopulation. The city should consider health and mental health services, transportation, food, financial help, and other relevant services. The clients should receive coordinated assessment for services upon entry to the system. The services may need to last two years or longer in order to make sure very few people return to homelessness.

Determination of Housing and Services by the City of Roanoke

The city used current and past research regarding housing and homeless issues including data and information from HUD, Census data, RKG Associate Inc. Regional Housing Study 2021, PIT/CoC/HMIS homeless statistics 2020-2022, city homeless reports, Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness, City's Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing , Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) report, and The Ramsay Group (TRG) research, interviews with service providers, city staff, developers, and the public in 2022. Assessment supports the recommendation that the city should try to move away from congregate shelter to the Rapid Re-housing model and provide at least 2 years of services in order to reduce return to homelessness.

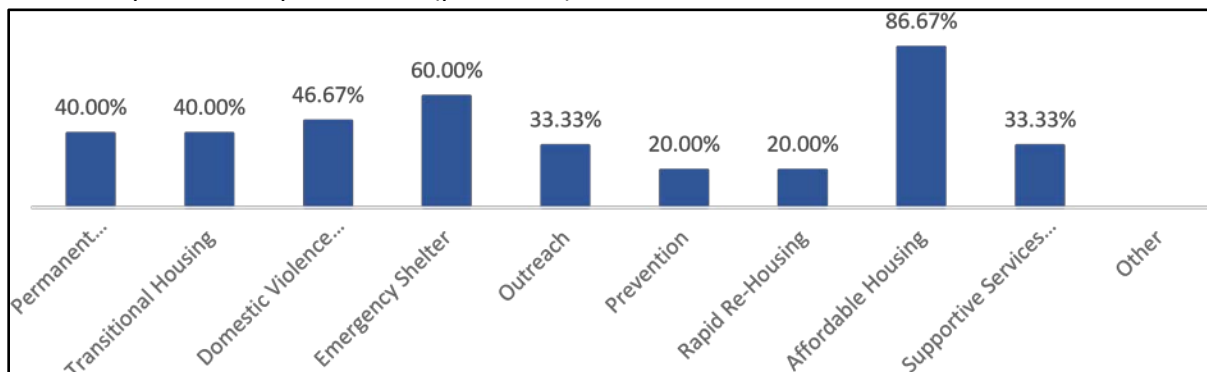
The following section is based on TRG research and past research supported by National Alliance to End Homelessness, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Virginia Homeless Solutions Program.

Through interviews with homelessness response system planners/providers, healthcare organizations, and local organizations, the following suggestions were provided:

- 1- Transform shelters. Homelessness response systems took immediate steps to improve the safety of shelters by staying open 24/7, increasing physical distance, and relaxing restrictions.
- 2- Create more non-congregate/affordable rental options. Many communities used hotels and motels to create non-congregate shelter options. These spaces better supported people's dignity, in addition to their physical health, by giving them privacy and a place of their own.
- 3- Boost homelessness prevention and supportive services. Rental assistance programs kept people housed during the pandemic. Successful programs partnered with grassroots organizations embedded in communities reduced application barriers and quickly distributed flexible funds. Mental health, employment, housing and other services are needed to move those at-risk or experiencing homelessness into permanent housing and other growth opportunities.

The research involving the local service providers and the homeless population by the **Blue Ridge Interagency Council of Homelessness (BRICH)** discovered the following:

1. What parts of the existing system serving homeless individuals/families need the most expansion/improvement (providers)?



2. What are the most critical issues around homelessness in the Roanoke Valley (providers)?

Affordable housing options (35); Mental and physical health and substance abuse (31); Supportive services/Connection and access to supportive services (29), Safe shelter (24), Job

training/access to employment opportunities (22); Restroom facilities open around the clock, including access to showers (9); Day shelter capacity (8); Address the issue of individuals returning to homelessness/system; Improved coordinated entry system (23); More collaboration between service providers, City, and funders (10); City-run shelter (16); and centralized point of contact (23).

3. What gaps exist in the current service system (homeless)?

Transportation, Mental health services, Substance use services, Day shelter options; It feels like a revolving door; get help from one and lose support from another; Communication between service providers; Knowledge of the system by service providers; and Housing vouchers and placement.

4. What is the one thing that would have helped you most to prevent your becoming homeless?

Affordable housing; Supportive people; Substance use treatment; Transportation/Bus passes; Clothing for work; Work tools; Job training; Assisted living; Financial assistance; Affordable Housing; Employment; Education; No Incarceration/criminal history; and Identification.

5. What are the best use of HOME-ARP funds (Providers)?

	Build more small rental Housing (1-2 Bedrooms)	TBRA – Rental support	Provide Non-congregate shelter/SRO	Additional Support Services
Level of support	#1 Very High	High	High	Very High
				Mental illness services, substance abuse services, financial related services

6. Which homeless subpopulation the City should prioritize (Providers)?

Sub population	Veterans and family	Elderly	Disable	Domestic Violence	Mentally ill	Chronically homeless
Priority	High	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Medium

7. What are the barriers to affordable housing (Developers)?

Barrier	Lack of equity	Lack of political support	Lack of affordable land	Low profit margins	Zoning	NIMBYISM
Importance	Very High	Low	High	Very High	Low	High

8. What can city do to help developers create additional affordable housing (Developers)?

Streamlining administrative process and purchasing abandoned properties and offering them to developers for affordable housing development.

Below are additional comments regarding homelessness, affordable housing and fair housing by the public, researchers, and providers in Roanoke, VA.

"We anticipate a growing share of renters will have low incomes and be severely cost-burdened, making them vulnerable to eviction and at risk of homelessness. Since the City of Roanoke faces a deficit of more than 4,500 units for extremely low-income households, which puts pressure on all units affordable to low-income households, eviction rates are unlikely to decrease without significant housing interventions including eviction prevention and reduction programs."

"We have 25% of number of affordable housings we need."

"Landlord involvement and education was suggested as a priority by stakeholders and the need was substantiated by the data: there are 29 landlords (3.9% of all landlords filing Unlawful Detainers [UDs]) that accounted for almost 50% of eviction proceedings."

"While the direct services and financial assistance available through a program would be very helpful in reducing evictions, they do not directly remediate the underlying cause of most evictions, including housing unaffordability and cost-burdened households. Those important issues can be addressed through advocacy for long-term policy and programmatic investments in housing stability."

"The City needs more single-family homes and apartments; there's not enough stock. Patients are living in cars, perpetually couch surfing, and have nowhere stable to stay. Roanoke has a central intake process, a single point of entry for those seeking housing solutions. This was a City initiative that is applicable to shelters and other resources. The truth is, there aren't a lot of options for housing."

"Roanoke has abandoned and nonfunctioning properties, former industrial sites, and available warehouses. These could be a creative solution, as tax right offs for developers and the City to repurpose them into low-income housing."

"Income and racial disparities play a recurring role. These groups are much more likely to struggle with stable housing. For the homeless or those at-risk, folks with mental illness are at a more significant disadvantage."

"Landlords in Roanoke are known for not taking good care of accommodations, not accommodating ADA needs, and renting units lacking basic infrastructures like water and heat."

"Those struggling most with stable housing are the homeless or those with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Transitional housing is what this group needs for support, and Roanoke has minimal options available."

"Residents are renting a house and being charged more than they should be, occupying dwellings and units that aren't serviced or maintained, have landlords who raise prices without notice, or are being denied due to race or legal status."

"Some data shows race to be a factor in homelessness- a higher percentage of African Americans are homeless in this community. There are also many people with disabilities and those suffering from mental health that struggle to obtain housing. Even those who qualify for Medicaid struggle to support themselves and often require help from a caretaker, friends, and family."

"Roanoke is the only urban area in SW Virginia, which means many individuals and families in need come to the City for support. The agency serves many people and does its best to stay local, but it doesn't have the resources to support everyone in the City and surrounding regions. The organization could benefit from leaning on neighboring areas if they also provided supportive services."

"The City could use more single-unit dwellings. Many units for rent are larger, and many of the homeless population are comprised of individuals. Even if rent were free, the organization wouldn't be able to house everyone in need."

"Residents who are housed are living in substandard units. Some clients must leave their housing due to lack of maintenance (i.e., broken windows, broken a/c, and plumbing issues). From here, they should contact legal aid to initiate housing first standards and speak with code enforcement for case management. If code enforcement deems the structure uninhabitable, clients can be re-housed. However, in 5-years, I have never heard of a landlord receiving a fine. Individuals involved in the court process often give up and self-evict when they get their first pay or quit. The process feels weighted towards landlords, so renters give up."

"There have been situations with the disabled or elderly population who end up in the hospital for one reason or another. When they return, the locks will be changed, and their belongings will be on the street due to missed payments and the tenant being unreachable."

"There's an apartment complex in NW owned by a landlord in New York City. The complex comprises four buildings (30-40 units) in Roanoke, all of which have issues. Code enforcement and the fire marshal were involved at one point, and the problem was sent to court. It was soon decided the landlord wouldn't be extradited from New York City to Roanoke, so nothing happened. This individual never received a fine, so nothing has changed. The City has many out-of-town property owners who are taking

advantage of the growing desire to live in Roanoke.”

“Anecdotally, the Airbnb culture and surrounding schools and universities compete for low-income housing options. They're also highly sought after and often more expensive.”

“As for downtown, there's a historical designation that creates a lack of choice. Dwellings are becoming more unlivable as they can't be updated for ADA accessibility.”

“If Roanoke adopted similar models to other cities, like requiring a certain percentage of units to be reserved for LMI earners, landlords would have more incentive to prioritize those struggling. Money makes things work, Roanoke is skyrocketing with rent up 15-30% since the pandemic, and the agency sees a lot of nonrenewal. Organizations need a partnership with the City and a department that monitors and upholds regulations.”

“There are vacant lots around Roanoke, but progress can be challenging between the property owners and the community. There are a few income-based properties that are older and run down. The residents will likely complain they don't want a similar structure in their backyard (NIMBYISM). During a community meeting on the topic of re-zoning properties from commercial to residential purposes, there was strong pushback from the community, saying the proposed complex would cause traffic and other adverse impacts in the neighborhood. Code enforcement and landlord incentives could help mitigate this.”

“Habitat for Humanity most commonly serves female head of households who are single. Some issues are affordable housing, lack of consistent transportation, employment, livable wage, availability of childcare, and staying in housing.”

“Stricter code enforcement and policies that hold landlords accountable would benefit individuals renting substandard units. There is a disconnect between the people and policymakers, and the latter is unaware of the many realities of renters.”

“The trend with Roanoke's aging community is that 95% of seniors want to age in place, in their homes, but most homes are not age friendly. Currently, in the area, 1 in 4 are over the age of 65; in ten years, it will be 1 in 3. If housing solutions for this population aren't underway, housing them will become more difficult.”

“In Roanoke, there's a lack of housing for the disabled or seniors. Much of what was available for senior housing (Section 8) also serves as housing for the mentally ill or lacks comforts like air conditioning. Many seniors in these housing complexes don't feel safe and don't go out. In recent years, the City's focus has been renovating the downtown area, but it isn't livable, affordable, or accessible for seniors.”

"Many individuals have difficulty obtaining housing upon release from prison because of financial stability. Finances are the most significant barrier, and many individuals haven't worked for some time and struggle to make enough for a deposit."

"Unfortunately, these individuals don't have the financial skills to save money and make better decisions. The most common barrier for these individuals is a lack of financial security and education. If financial planning programs were implemented at these organizations where individuals are taught about basic money management, residents could help develop more vital financial skills."

"One-bedroom units necessary to begin housing the homeless. The organization is currently focused on eviction prevention as it's recently become a big issue in Roanoke."

"Additionally, as of one year ago, accessory dwellings were legalized within Roanoke. Under this new law, 2800 units in the City qualify, but ZERO permits have been submitted. This has happened previously when the City passes new zoning laws, but there's no community awareness."

"Residents don't believe there's support before missing rent payments. By the time they ask for assistance, they're too far behind in payments. If residents come to the organization before the ninth hour, resources like financial literacy while helping them pay bills would more likely keep them off the streets. Individuals, unfortunately, are taught they can only get help when they're desperate."

"The other barrier when offering rent assistance or rapid re-housing is that organizations try to help as many people as possible instead of fixing the situation for fewer people, so we never see them again. The community could make more traction on homelessness if organizations offered to pay out a smaller amount of people and entirely absolve their debt. Other agencies in Roanoke have a \$300 or monthly limit, which will not get individuals out of debt with landlords. Then individuals hop from agency to agency collecting cash rather than focusing on bringing financial literacy, education, and absolving all debt."

"According to a review of programs, eviction prevention and reduction programs should be multi-faceted interventions, including rental and financial assistance, legal aid, case management, resident services, housing counseling and financial literacy. Similarly, multi-stakeholder networks should coordinate services as closely as possible and develop a standardized screening process for initiating clients into eviction prevention programs (NeighborWorks America, 2015)."

The research published in the last few years and supported by National Alliance to End Homelessness, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Blue Ridge Interagency

Council on Homelessness, and Virginia Homeless Solutions Program show the following solutions to the homeless crisis.

- **Coordinated Crisis Response System**

An effective crisis response system can identify and quickly connect people who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and other services. The following are the components of the Crisis Response System:

1- Outreach: Outreach workers connect people at risk of or experiencing homelessness to coordinated entry, emergency services, and shelter. They work with other programs in the system to connect people to stable, permanent housing.

2- Coordinated entry: Coordinated entry is a process designed to identify quickly, assess, refer and connect people in crisis to housing assistance and services. A welcome center that provides housing, social services, and job search assistance. To end homelessness, a coordinated systems approach is needed. This approach requires using local data to inform decisions about how to most effectively allocate resources, services, and programs to best address the needs of those experiencing homelessness in the community. The HMIS data and annual performance measurement and evaluation can help in making better decisions.

3- Diversion and prevention: Prevention and diversion are essential components of a community's crisis response and can help it reduce the size of its homeless population. Prevention assistance can aid households in preserving their current housing situation. At the same time, diversion prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services.

4- Emergency shelters and interim housing: People experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing an unsafe situation must find a place to stay quickly. Emergency shelters and temporary accommodations can fill this role in a crisis response system. These interventions should be low-barrier and align their goals and program activities with the more extensive system's goals.

5- Permanent housing: A crisis response system must have the capacity to connect people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing programs, such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, and other stable housing options. Permanent supportive housing is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-

based health care, treatment, and employment services. A cost-effective solution, permanent supportive housing has been shown to lower public costs associated with using crisis services such as shelters, hospitals, jails, and prisons.

- **Virginia Efforts Towards Homeless Veterans**

The state of Virginia attributes its success in rapid re-housing and reduction of homelessness among veterans to the following factors:

- 1- Coordinated community outreach and a common assessment tool.
- 2- By-name lists of veterans experiencing homelessness.
- 3- Holding CoC Case Conferencing meetings.
- 4- Data-sharing among all providers with one list of veterans experiencing homelessness and prioritizing based on vulnerability.
- 5- Increased coordination and streamlined processes for appropriate housing placements.
- 6- Connecting veterans to mainstream resources and employment opportunities.
- 7- A commitment to Housing First principles.
- 8- Landlord engagement.

The success of ending homelessness among veterans in Virginia suggests that rapid re-housing is only part of the solution. Communities must have a coordinated crisis system that deals with people in crisis. From 2010-2014 state of Virginia reduced the number of families experiencing homelessness. One important factor in this success was that Virginia shifted from a shelter-based system to a rapid re-housing approach. Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of a criminal record, or sobriety), and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the household's unique needs.

- **Rapid Re-housing**

Rapid re-housing is designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. A key element of rapid re-housing is the "Housing First" philosophy, which offers accommodation without preconditions such as employment, income, lack of a criminal background, or sobriety. If issues such as these need to be addressed, the household can manage them most effectively once it is in housing.

There are three core components of rapid re-housing:

1. Housing identification;
2. Rent and move-in assistance (financial);
3. Rapid re-housing case management and services.

While all three components are present and available in effective rapid re-housing programs, there are instances where different entities or agencies provide the components or where a household does not utilize all three.

Housing Identification

The program recruits landlords to provide housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The program must address any potential barriers to landlord participation, such as concerns about the short-term nature of rental assistance and tenant qualifications. Effective programs accomplish this by assuring support to landlords during the move-in process and by offering landlords direct contact at the program if they have issues with a tenant placed by the program. Some programs provide enhanced damage deposits or other financial mechanisms to alleviate landlords' concerns.

Beyond landlord recruitment, programs must also match households to appropriate housing, especially for survivors of domestic violence, which is safe. Effective programs accomplish this by recruiting many landlords to provide a variety of housing options in a variety of neighborhoods and by serving as a resource to households during the housing search, location, and application process. Concerning a household's ability to afford rent after the termination of financial assistance, programs should not assume this can be accurately assessed at the time of entry. Effective programs and jurisdictions have found that even households with zero income at the admission to a rapid re-housing program can maintain housing once program involvement ends.

Rent and Move-In Assistance

The program provides assistance to cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance (typically six months or less) necessary to allow individuals and families to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. The amount and duration of financial assistance a rapid re-housing program provides can vary. Still, at a minimum, programs should assist necessary for households to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. Programs can provide funds for move-in costs, security deposits, rental payments, and utility assistance. Sometimes, a first month's rent or security deposit is sufficient for a household to exit homelessness, and data show that programs typically provide financial aid for six months or less. Still, many funding streams allow assistance for up to 24 months if necessary. Some programs attempt to provide households with choices in housing and often adopt creative strategies, such as renting rooms or accessory units, co-tenancy, or shared housing, to increase the likelihood that households want to remain and can afford to remain in their units of choice once financial assistance ends. Preliminary outcome data have shown that most households, even when unemployed or underemployed at the entry to a rapid re-housing program, still manage to stay housed after financial assistance ends. Providers' strategies to mitigate a household's lack of employment include help accessing public benefits and creating shared living situations to minimize rent costs, in addition to traditional services geared towards helping a household establish employment.

Rapid Re-housing Case Management and Services

Programs help individuals and families experiencing homelessness address issues that may impede access to housing (such as credit history, arrears, and legal issues). Programs provide appropriate services and support available to families and individuals to allow them to stabilize quickly in permanent housing.

Rapid Re-housing Programs Short-term Outcome

The Short-Term Impacts report nationally provides some essential information regarding the effectiveness of rapid re-housing, including:

- 1- Helping households quickly exit homelessness: Families that enrolled in a rapid re-housing program exited shelter in an average of 2 months or 3.2 months faster than those referred to rapid re-housing but did not enroll.
- 2- Preventing households from returning to homelessness: 77 percent of families enrolled

in rapid re-housing did not return to the shelter.

- 3- Increasing a household's self-sufficiency: Families referred to rapid re-housing had incomes 10 percent higher than usual care. Rapid re-housing also led to improvements in food security relative to regular care.
- 4- Decrease in homelessness overall: 5 families can be rapidly re-housed (\$6,578 per family) for what it costs to house one family in transitional housing (\$32,557 per family).

Two statewide studies of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data have supported rapid re-housing as a model with low returns to homelessness. In a statewide administrative data analysis, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs found that persons exiting emergency shelter and transitional housing programs were 4 and 4.7 times more likely to return to homelessness than those leaving rapid re-housing programs. The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness found that, of those families who exited rapid re-housing programs in Connecticut in 2010, 95 percent had not returned to shelter three years later.

In addition to these national studies, studies from states and individual jurisdictions are emerging. In an evaluation of fourteen Continuum of Care's in seven states, seventy five percent of rapid re-housing participants were found to exit to permanent housing, much higher than from emergency shelter (16 percent) or transitional housing (42 percent). The average cost per exit to permanent housing was significantly lower for rapid re-housing (about \$4,100) than it was for either shelter (about \$10,000) or transitional housing (about \$22,200).

Byrne et al. (2015) also examined outcomes for households receiving rapid re-housing services and receiving prevention services one year and two years after exiting. The researchers found that most families and individuals served by SSVF's rapid re-housing and prevention services remained housed. Specifically, the researchers found that at 1-year post-SSVF exit, 90.6% of families and 84% of individuals who were rapidly re-housed remained in their homes. Similarly, two years after SSVF exit, about 85% of families and 73.4% of individuals who were rapidly re-housed remained in their housing.

Overall, rapid re-housing is an essential tool to end homelessness. Rapid re-housing appears to have decreased the length of homelessness, fewer returns to homelessness, lowered costs per household than other interventions, and reduced homelessness in communities. On an individual level, rapid re-housing minimizes the amount of time an individual or family spends homeless and rapidly helps them stabilize in their housing. Creating interventions and planning systemically around the model's three core components.

Income Opportunity and Homelessness

There are efforts to improve pathways to employment for low-skilled, entry-level workers through investments in subsidized employment and programs funded under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The availability of work supports for low-income

households, such as childcare and transportation assistance, can also have a big impact on whether or not a household can sustain employment. There are also opportunities to improve income support programs for low-income people. As an example, TANF assistance can be made more readily accessible to families experiencing a housing crisis, which might help avert homelessness for some. Also, some government agencies can provide additional staff to help the homeless with unemployment applications, Supplemental Security Income, and Social Security Disability Income to reduce the length of time eligible people must wait before receiving income.

Conclusion

The HMIS data shows an immediate need for two thousand (2,000) housing units for rapid rehousing of the homeless population. The research, including interviews with providers, suggests that people should receive two years of service or, in some cases, longer to reduce the rate of return to homelessness. Both rapid rehousing and support services reduce the rate of return to homelessness.

This study and previous studies all show that the city should assist with producing approximately 5,000 small (0-2 bedrooms) affordable rental housing units to people with 0-50% of Area Medium Income (AMI) to eliminate homelessness and risk of homelessness.

The research, including input from the public and providers, suggests that the elderly, disabled, domestic violence victims, veterans, and the mentally ill should receive priority for housing and support services. The discussion with developers suggests that low-profit margins and lack of equity are the main reason for the lack of involvement by developers in the low-income housing market. This suggests the need for government involvement in the housing market to help produce low-income housing. The government does not have to directly build or manage housing (as in the 1960s-1970s) but can help with funding.

Appendix

Stakeholder Survey and Dashboard Results

The Ramsay Group developed and distributed surveys to obtain feedback from a wide cross section of community stakeholders regarding the HOME-ARP program. The purpose was to obtain meaningful feedback to help guide the City in identifying needs and determining the best use of HOME ARP Funds. There were specific surveys for the Roanoke Community, Homeless and other service providers, and housing developers. The surveys were available online for completion. Link to the survey instrument and summary of results can be found below:

Resident Survey dashboard: https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-2BQ1pxQd7ZbDNMaNeaHOYJQ_3D_3D/

Service Provider dashboard: https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-9rGTqvEu1Ck1bIXTYFEJQ_3D_3D/

City Staff dashboard: https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-U6MujLdDjTFRuY5VBhFWbA_3D_3D/

Individual Interviews

In addition to Community Surveys, a total of 18 individual, confidential interviews were held with key stakeholders. The interviews were conducted in November 2022 and consisted of open-ended questions to allow for a dialogue with the participant.

The Ramsay Group Housing Needs & Gaps Analysis Notations and Clarifications

From page 1, *Overall Population and Household Growth is Projected to be Positive*

- TRG: “Approximately 83% of households have only one person.”
- Clarification: This statistic comes from a housing study released by RKG Associates in 2020. This should state that 83% of **non-family households** have one person.
 - From the RKG study: “According to the Census, households can be defined as either family or non-family. Family households are comprised of two or more related individuals where non-family households are comprised of unrelated people living together (such as housemates), and single individuals. In the City of Roanoke, most family households (73%) are comprised of two or three members. **Most non-family households are single individuals which account for nearly 83% of non-family households.**” (Regional Housing Market Study Analysis, RKG, page 189)

From page 1, *Most Low-Income Renters are Cost Burdened or unable to Find Affordable Housing*

- TRG: “At 30% of their income a household of one at 30% AMI should pay about \$412 per month for rent.”
- Clarification: For a household of one with an annual income of \$18,150 (the most someone can earn and still be considered living at 30% AMI), they should pay no more than \$454 in monthly rent and utilities in order to not be considered cost-burdened.

From Page 2, *Most Low-Income Renters are Cost Burdened or unable to Find Affordable Housing*

- TRG: “There is a projected deficit of 3,569 affordable units, meaning many extremely low-income households are having to spend more than 30% of their income housing costs.”
- Clarification: Using American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2014-2018, a housing study released by RKG Associates in 2020 found that there is a deficit of 3,569 units affordable to those who are considered extremely low income (below 30% AMI). This deficit is not seen for renters who are considered 30%-100%AMI (Regional Housing Market Study Analysis, RKG, page 229).

From page 13, *Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness*

- TRG: “In 2022 there were 28 Chronically homeless individuals counted.”
- Clarification: The Point In Time Count is an annual survey that aims to identify the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. The Winter 2022 Point In Time Count surveyed **39** chronically homeless individuals, meaning 39 chronically homeless individuals were counted as experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2022.

From page 14, *Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness*

- TRG: “Since 2012, homelessness among households was reduced from 50 households in 2012 to 10 families in 2022, an 80% reduction.”
- Clarification: The Winter 2022 Point In Time Count surveyed 10 families experiencing literal homelessness, meaning these families were staying in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation on a single night in January. However, there were 84 families served by emergency shelters in the calendar year of 2022 (made up of 266 individuals). Additionally, the number of families accessing homeless services through Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) also demonstrates higher instances of homelessness and housing instability among families. For the

22-23 school year to date, RCPS has identified 43 families in shelter, 335 families that are “doubled up”, and 64 families living in hotels.

From page 21, Table-21 – 2019 Homeless Housing Inventory & Narrative

- TRG: Table-21 shows the total of 726 total beds in the inventory of CoC in 2019. The data shows more capacity than homeless persons, with 276 homeless in 2020 and 250 in 2021, compared to 726 beds in 2019. However, this is misleading. There is a mismatch between capacity and homeless. Most homeless need one- or two-person accommodation, but sometimes capacity is for 3 to 8 persons. This creates extra capacity (empty space) that is not useable by other people. Based on data provided by CoC 2019 (Table-21), there were a total of 726 beds available for homeless individuals, with 62% (449) of beds found in emergency shelters and 38% (277) of the beds located in permanent housing facilities. There are 421 adult-only beds in the region.”
- Clarification: The table and accompanying narrative are a misrepresentation of the homeless housing inventory in Roanoke County and the Cities of Roanoke and Salem. Because of this, it is incredibly inaccurate and therefore dangerous to state that “there is more capacity than homeless persons”. Both the chart and narrative do not address the nature of these identified beds/units, including, and most importantly, that the units/beds often are specifically dedicated to subpopulations. For example, not all persons experiencing homelessness are eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing beds; a person has to meet the high threshold of HUD’s chronic homeless definition, which includes having a documented disability. Another bed dedication may be to veterans; a percentage of permanent supportive housing beds are dedicated to chronically homeless veterans. Additionally, there should be further discussion on the comparison of the number of beds/units available year round and the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. To further understand the gaps in the homeless response system, the following considerations are recommended: include the number of people accessing street outreach services; include the number of people who are denied services and reasons why (i.e. program at capacity; strict eligibility guidelines, etc.); dissect the homeless housing inventory by populations served (i.e. chronic homeless, veterans, etc.) and compare this number to the number of people that meet these criteria and are seeking services.

From page 29, Table 29 Shelter Beds Available

- TRG: Includes 43 Cold Weather Shelter beds
- Clarification: These 43 Cold Weather Shelter beds were not available year-round; were only available after certain cold weather conditions were met.

From page 30, Table 29 Shelter Beds Available

- TRG: Identifies 60 Turning Point beds
- Clarification: Turning Point operates as a domestic violence shelter. Based on community conversations, Turning Point has reduced the number of shelter beds available in order to provide more intensive services to fewer clients. It is unclear how many beds are available at Turning Point for DV shelter use.

From page 34, Total Housing Capacity for People Experiencing Homelessness

- TRG: “The number of people at risk of homelessness is 852.”
- Clarification: There were 852 people who received services for being at-risk of homelessness. With 20% of the City living below the poverty line, and at least 47% of renters considered cost-burdened, it is understood that there are not enough services to help all of those who are

unstably housed. To get a better understanding of this the number of people who are at-risk, it recommended to also examine the number of people who sought at-risk services and were denied due to lack of community resources as well.

General Notes on Understanding the Point In Time Count

- HUD requires communities to conduct an annual Point In Time (PIT) Count, which is defined as an unduplicated count of people experiencing literal homelessness on a single night in January.
- Literal homelessness is defined as someone staying in emergency shelter or places not meant for human habitation.
- Because the PIT Count data relies on how many people can be “counted” on a single night, the PIT Count is understood to underrepresent the number of people actually experiencing homelessness in a community. PIT count data is best used to identify broad trends in homelessness, raise public awareness, promote collaboration across communities, inform future funding allocations, and create a shared understanding of a complex problem.